CREATED BY LEIJI MATSUMOTO
BASED ON THE OPERA CYCLE BY RICHARD WAGNER

Der Ring des Nibelungen

THE RHINEGOLD



Leiji MATSUMOTO
松本零士



A manga series originally
inspired by
Der Ring Des Nibelungen,
an opera in four parts
composed by Richard Wagner
(1813 – 1883)

Volumes 1 – 8
translated and adapted
by Richard E. Mandel
from the French language version
released by Kana Press

Volumes 9 – 10
re-edited and adapted
by Richard E. Mandel
from the original English release
on the old Shinchosa web site
(www.shinchosa.co.jp)

Introduction by Richard Mandel

To my knowledge, this is the first time that anyone has attempted to bring Leiji Matsumoto's *Harlock Saga* manga series to English speaking audiences. It is certainly the largest and longest manga translation project I have ever undertaken myself.

This is a first draft of my personal translation that I have used in my various Leijiverse researches. It is based on the French language version published by Kana Press in 2002. A "reverse translation," if you will. I translated it using *Power Translator* computer software, then rewrote all of the pidgin English that the computer spit back out into something an English-speaking person could actually read, understand, and enjoy. As such, it is more of an adaptation than a translation, and not very accurate in more places than most of us might care for -- but it gets the job done. I hope it suffices until someone who can speak and read the native Japanese comes along to do a more accurate rendition. Someone had to be first in doing this, and it may as well have been me.

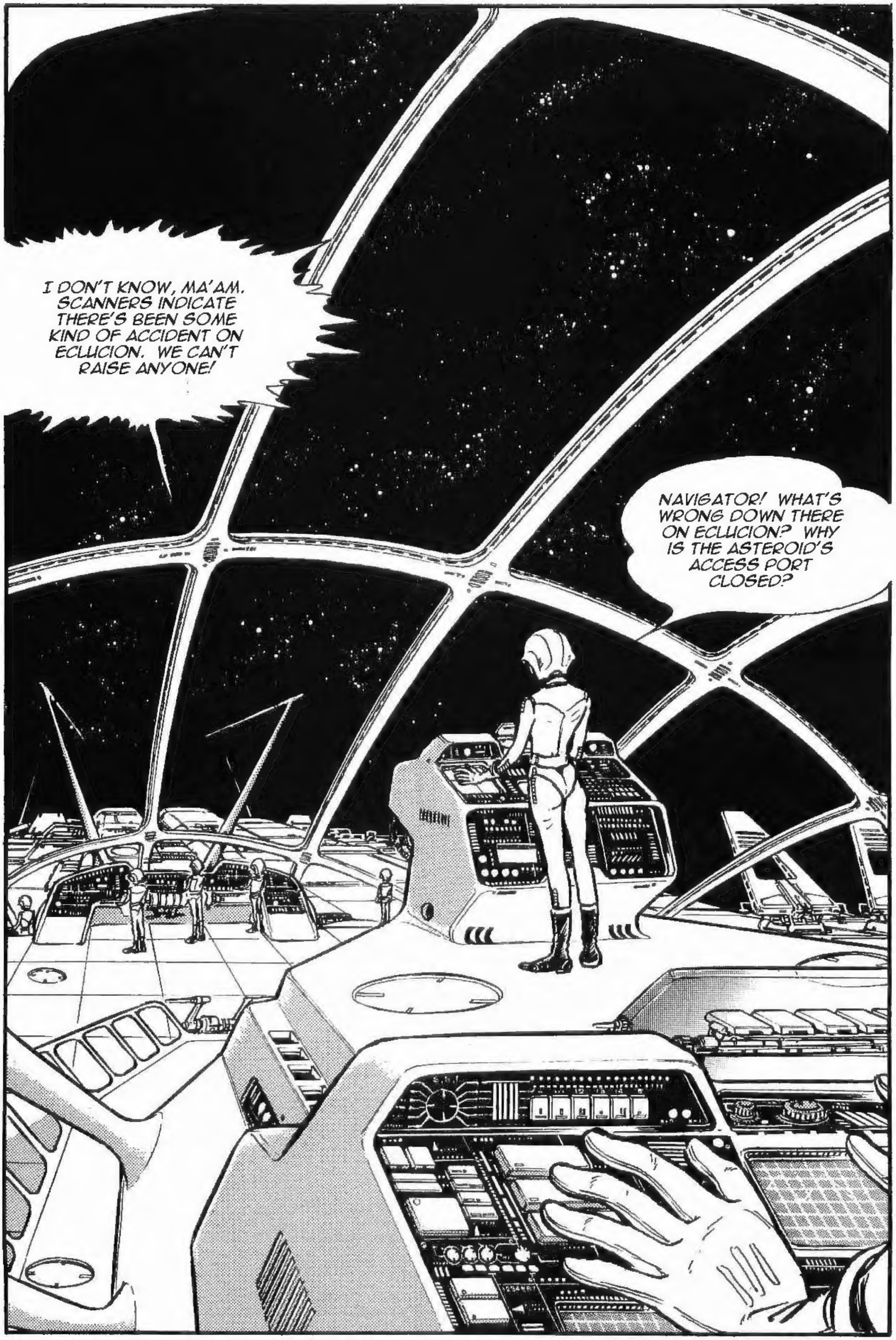
I have taken the liberty of "streamlining" my English adaptation for the sake of those readers not familiar with the Leijiverse in general and the mythos behind this story. Whole chapters of dialogue have been rewritten as a result, and a dozen or so graphic panels which I believe are incorrect have been altered or replaced with alternate ones. Hopefully these editorial changes on my part will help clear up some of the confusion experienced by earlier readers of this work, who got to experience it in the original Japanese. I apologize in advance for any errors or mistakes I might have made during this process.

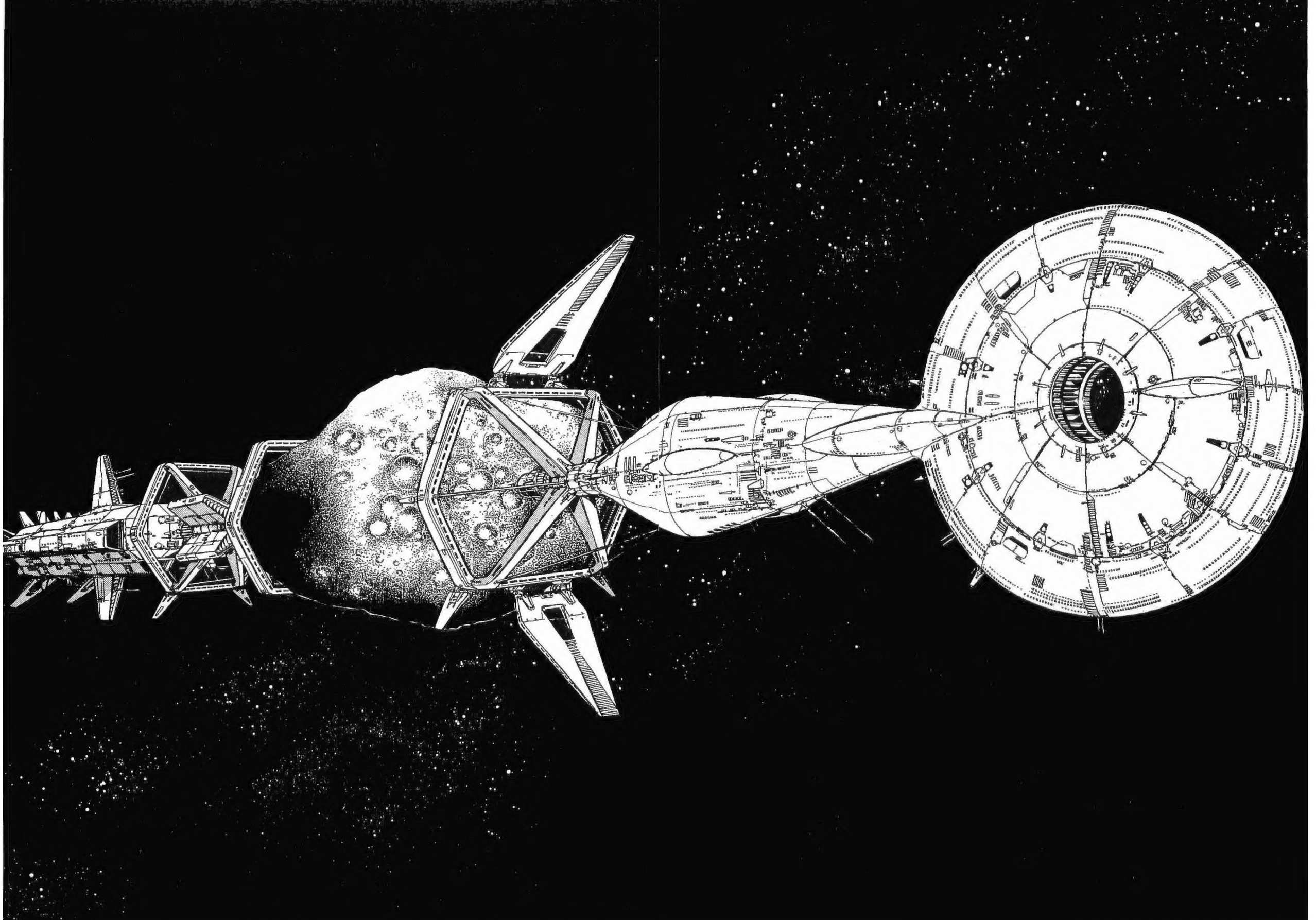

DER RING
DES NIBELUNGEN



The Rhinegold

Ring 01 ~ Mime, the Sorceress of Legend


I DON'T KNOW, MA'AM. SCANNERS INDICATE THERE'S BEEN SOME KIND OF ACCIDENT ON ECLUCION. WE CAN'T RAISE ANYONE!
NAVIGATOR! WHAT'S WRONG DOWN THERE ON ECLUCION? WHY IS THE ASTEROID'S ACCESS PORT CLOSED?



ABSOLUTELY NOTHING, MA'AM ... NOTHING ON ANY BAND - PUBLIC, PRIVATE, SECRET, YOU NAME IT - NOTHING!!

ECLUCION'S GONE SILENT? COMPLETELY?! IMPOSSIBLE!! NAVIGATOR, RECHECK YOUR READINGS!

YES, MA'AM!

THIS USED TO BE A MAJOR PLANETARY TRADING OUTPOST. SURELY WE CAN FIND SOME CLUE AS TO WHAT HAPPENED ....

ACTIVATE THE TIME RADAR! SCAN FOR ANYTHING!!

REVERSE SPACE-TIME PARTICLE INTERACTION EXTRAPOLATION NOW IN PROGRESS ... SCANNING ... STILL SCANNING ....

ACTIVATING TIME RADAR! POWER LEVEL AT 50%!!

AS SOON AS WE GET SOMETHING DEFINITE, I WANT A REPORT MADE BACK TO THE SOL SYSTEM ASAP!

TOTAL SILENCE? ACROSS ALL OF ECLUCION? THIS MAKES NO SENSE ....

I WANT TO KNOW JUST WHAT HAPPENED TO ECLUCION, AND WHERE THE HELL IS EVERBODY!! DON'T STOP SCANNING UNTIL YOU HAVE SOMETHING!!

PUSH IT INTO THE RED IF YOU HAVE TO! I DON'T WANT THE VALKYRIE 13 COMING UP EMPTY!!

MA'AM! WE'VE GOT SOMETHING! THE IMAGES ARE COMING THROUGH NOW!!

READINGS INDICATE A SHIP MAKING A LANDING ....

C'MON GUYS, I'M NOT HOSTILE! I JUST WANT TO TALK TO THE MAYOR. LET ME IN, WILL YA?!

I'VE GOT ECLUSION'S HANGAR BAY SECURITY VIDEO LINE, MA'AM. ON SCREEN NOW ....

THESE WERE MADE JUST OVER TWO HOURS AGO. IT'S A ROUTINE VIDEO RECORDING MADE BY ECLUCION'S BUREAU OF SPACE TRAFFIC REGULATION.

YOU HAVE **GOT** TO BE KIDDING ME .... <u>THAT'S</u> A SHIP? WHAT IS THIS?! HOW LONG AGO DOES THE SYSTEM SAY THESE IMAGES WERE MADE?

STEEL FRAME, WITH ADDITIONAL COMPONENTS MADE FROM ALUMINUM, GLASS, LEATHER, AND EVEN CLOTH ....

AN OBSOLETE MOTOR VEHICLE, CAPTAIN, DATING FROM EARTH'S LATE 20TH CENTURY. OBSOLETE INTERNAL COMBUSTION MOTOR, RUNNING ON AN ELEVATED OCTANE PETROLEUM DERIVATIVE CALLED GASOLINE ....

ANALYSIS, QUICKLY!

THAT'S ... THAT'S SOME FORM OF ANTIQUE <u>GROUND</u> TRANSPORT!

THIS PARTICULAR VEHICLE IS A MODEL 150 SL "SPORTS CAR." FIRST MANUFACTURED IN 1955, SPECIFIC MODEL HERE IS FROM 1960, OLD EARTH CALENDAR. THE NAME OF THE BODY COLOR READS AS "MAROON RED."

HISTORY SCAN SAYS THAT THIS WAS MANUFACTURED ON OLD EARTH BY A "MERCEDES BENZ" IN THE DAYS BEFORE THE EUROPEAN UNION ....

CHECKING ... COMPUTER SAYS IT IS BURNING TOO MUCH OF A PETROLEUM LUBRICANT KNOWN AS "MOTOR OIL." POSSIBLE SIGN OF ENGINE TROUBLE, MA'AM.

WHY DOES IT SMOKE? IS THAT NORMAL?

A "SPORTS CAR" ALTERED FOR BOTH GROUND AND SPACE TRAVEL ... VERY CLEVER ....

I SEE ... OUR MYSTERY MAN SEEMS TO HAVE QUITE THE TASTE FOR ANTIQUE TECHNOLOGY ...

YES, MA'AM!!

CONTINUE SCANNING! ARE THERE ANY MORE IMAGES LIKE THIS?!

SO ... THIS "CAR" ARRIVED ON ECLUCION TWO HOURS AGO ... AND EVERYONE DISAPPEARED AFTER THAT ....

SOMETHING ODD HAPPENED HERE, AND I WANT TO KNOW WHO DID IT AND WHY!!

APPROACHING THE MAIN SPACEPORT HATCH, MA'AM.

NOW IT'S COMPLETELY DEAD AND DEVOID OF ALL LIFE? WHY? AND WHAT DOES THIS "CAR" HAVE TO DO WITH IT?!

TWO HOURS AGO, THIS WAS A PERFECTLY NORMAL ASTEROID.

PROBE SHIP LAUNCHING, MA'AM. ALL SYSTEMS GREEN.

THAT WAS NO ACCIDENT. SOMETHING DELIBERATELY DESTROYED THAT CAR!

PROBE SHIP REPORTING, MA'AM. WE'VE FOUND THE ANTIQUE CAR .. OR RATHER, WHAT'S LEFT OF IT ....

I'VE TRIED HAILING IT ON ALL KNOWN FREQUENCES, BUT I GET NO RESPONSE.

MA'AM! A SMALL CRAFT HAS JUST DROPPED OUT OF LIGHTSPEED AND IS CLOSING ON US. SPACE NORMAL SPEED, MA'AM.

THESE HOLES ... A HAND LASER? NO ... AN OLD-STYLE PROJECTILE WEAPON ....

MANUAL? THAT PILOT IS EITHER VERY GOOD OR A TOTAL IDIOT. VERY WELL, OPEN THE MAIN HANGAR BAY DOORS. LET'S SEE WHAT OUR VISITOR WANTS.

IT APPEARS TO BE ON MANUAL CONTROL, MA'AM.

THAT WAS VERY NICE OF THE SPACE PATROL. LET'S PARK THIS CRATE AND PAY THEM A VISIT, SHALL WE?

HELLO ...?!

LET THEM BE FOR NOW. DO YOU SEE? IT'S THE MAN FROM THE VIDEO? WHY DID HE COME BACK? WHY COME HERE AT ALL?!

CAPTAIN, WHAT DO WE DO ABOUT THEM?

... AND BOTH ARE ARMED!

SCANNING ... THERE ARE ONLY TWO OF THEM ... BOTH ARE HUMAN ...

VESSEL IS A TWO-PERSON TRANSPORT OF AN OLD BUT POPULAR DESIGN. STANDARD ARMAMENT IS LASERS AND SPACE TORPEDOES.

NOW SCANNING THEIR VESSEL

MA'AM! SENSORS DETECT ALL THE PARTS OF A GRAVITY BOMB! AND IT'S ARMED!!

WE'LL NEVER SURVIVE THE BLAST, MA'AM!!!

WAIT - I KNOW THAT WOMAN! SHE IS THE PIRATE QUEEN EMERALDAS!! THAT MEANS THE MAN MUST BE...!

THEY ACT AS IF THEY OWN THE PLACE STRANGE... WHAT IS IT THAT THESE TWO WANT WITH ECLICION?

MA'AM, WE'VE MANAGED TO OPEN THE MAIN ACCESS HATCH TO THE ECLLICION SPACEPORT. SHALL WE TAKE THE SHIP IN?

IF WE RUSH RIGHT IN, THEN WHATEVER KILLED EVERYONE HERE MIGHT ALSO KILL US, TOO.

THERE'S NO NEED TO HURRY.

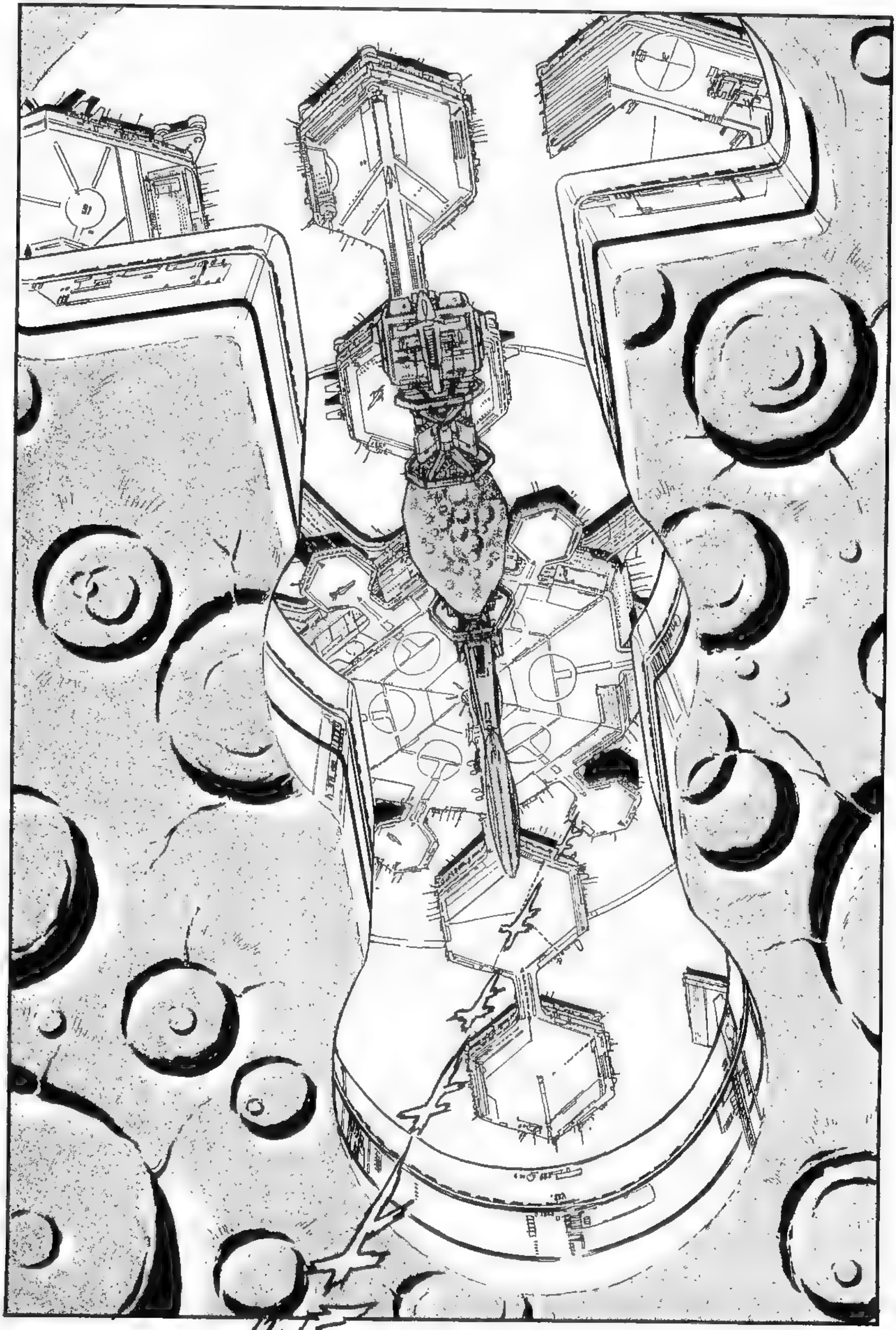
THIS IS OUR CHANCE, MA'AM! IF WE KILL THEM NOW--

BESIDES ... WE STILL HAVE THOSE TWO BELOW TO WORRY ABOUT.

GUESTS? THAT'S AN ILL CHOICE OF WORDS, PIRATE ...

IS THAT HOW THE SPACE PATROL TREATS ITS GUESTS?

.. BUT SEEING AS HOW YOU HAVE THE ADVANTAGE, LET'S TALK. WHAT DO YOU WANT?



BUT IT WILL TAKE TIME FOR US TO BRING IT BACK, AND YOUR SHIP IS ALREADY--

ACTUALLY, NO. WE'LL ALSO NEED THAT PROBE SHIP OF YOURS, TOO.

IS THAT ALL?

NOT MUCH. JUST TO KNOW WHEN YOUR SHIP DOCKS.

WE'RE GOING TO LEAVE IT IN YOUR HANGAR. A PARTING GIFT, IF YOU WILL -- JUST SO YOU DON'T TRY ANYTHING. IF YOU DO, WELL ....

LOOK, LADY. CUT THE BULLSHIT. WE KNOW YOU KNOW ABOUT OUR SHIP AND WHAT'S IN IT.

THEY'VE BEEN GONE FOR TWO HOURS, OR DON'T YOU KNOW THAT ALREADY? BESIDES - THEY TRIED TO KILL ME AND WRECKED MY BEAUTIFUL CAR, TOO!

BUT ... BUT WHAT IF WHOEVER OR WHATEVER HAS WIPED OUT ALL LIFE ON ECLUCION COMES BACK?

WELL, TO BE HONEST, I'M KINDA FUZZY ON THE DETAILS MYSELF. I SUSPECT MIIME MIGHT HAVE HAD SOMETHING TO DO WITH IT.

YOU SHOULD HAVE BEEN KILLED WITH EVERYONE ELSE!!

SPEAKING OF WHICH, HOW DID <u>YOU</u> MANAGE TO ESCAPE DEATH?

MIIME?! THE NIBELUNG SORCERESS?!!

YOU GOT IT. I SEE YOU'VE HEARD OF HER. SHE'S A VERY POWERFUL LADY - ALTHOUGH YOU WOULDN'T KNOW THAT BY LOOKING AT HER.

DON'T EVEN THINK ABOUT DISARMING THE BOMB IN OUR SHIP ...

UNLESS YOU'RE FEELING LUCKY, THAT IS.

YOU MIGHT CALL HER A WITCH ...

WHO IS THIS MIIME?

SHE HAS POWERS THAT ARE MORE THAN PSIONIC ... THEY'RE HARD FOR MORTALS TO GRASP.

... BUT THE PROPER TERM IS "SORCERESS." SHE'S ONE OF THE FEW KNOWN SURVIVORS OF ONE OF THE ELDEST OF RACES - FROM A TIME IN THE UNIVERSE FAR, FAR BEFORE OUR MEAGER HISTORY RECORDS ....

IF MIIME, THE SORCERESS OF LEGEND, HAS RETURNED TO THIS CONTINUUM, THEN PERHAPS THE GODS WILL FOLLOW ... AND IF SO, AS THE OLD LEGENDS SAY, THEN RAGNAROK - THE END OF THE UNIVERSE - MAY BE UPON US.

WHAT IS THE CONNECTION BETWEEN MIIME AND ECLLICION ... AND WHY WERE ALL OF ITS PEOPLE KILLED?!

BUT WHY? WHY NOW? IS MIIME ON ECLLICION?! IS THAT WHY THOSE TWO ARE GOING THERE?!!

TOCHIRO ... WHAT DO YOU MAKE OF THIS FOG? IT SEEMS TO BE EVERYWHERE ....

WAIT ... I'VE GOT A FIX. MUSICAL RADIATION ... COMING FROM THE MAIN ADMIN BUILDING ...

SENSORS SAY IT'S MADE OF BIOMASS ... SHIT! IT'S WHAT'S LEFT OF EVERYBODY! LOOKS LIKE I GOT OUT JUST IN TIME!!

WHAT A QUAINT, OLD-STYLE DESIGN! NICE ....

DAMN, BUT IT'S DARK IN HERE.

THEY MUST HAVE KILLED EVERYONE ELSE AND SAVED HIM FOR LAST ....

HEY, THE FOCUS OF THE MUSICAL RADIATION IS RIGHT HERE IN THIS ROOM.

!!

TOCHIRO! HOW SAD ....

THE COLONY MAYOR WORKS HERE. HE'S THE ONE I WAS TRYING TO SEE WHEN MY CAR GOT SHOT UP.

ACCORDING TO MY INFO, HE KNOWS WHERE THE PLANET RHINE IS LOCATED.

... AND THAT ALSO EXPLAINS THE SOURCE OF THE MUSICAL RADIATION WE PICKED UP BEFORE!!

SO THAT'S HOW I WAS YANKED OUT OF HERE AND ZIPPED HALFWAY ACROSS THE COSMOS TO YOUR SHIP ...

UUURGHH ... WHAT A SAVAGE WAY TO DIE. I'D JUST AS SOON NOT HAVE SEEN THAT ....

IE.

NO, MY FRIEND TOCHIRO. I AM NOT HERE. WHAT YOU SEE IS BUT A SPECTER PROJECTED TO THIS LOCATION IN SPACE AND TIME. NEVERTHELESS I CAN HEAR AND SEE YOU, AND YOU CAN ME. ASK ME WHAT YOU WISH TO KNOW, AND I WILL TRY TO ANSWER YOU ....

MIIME?! HOW ... NO, WHY ARE YOU HERE?!!



The Rhinegold

Ring 02 - The Rhine Maidens

NO, MA'AM. THOSE PEOPLE WERE DISRUPTED ON A MOLECULAR LEVEL. MUSICAL RADIATION OF THAT KIND WOULD HAVE DESTROYED ECLLICION, TOO.

COULD THIS HAVE BEEN WHAT CAUSED THE DEATHS OF ALL THE PEOPLE OF ECLLICION?

IF THIS HAD BEEN WHAT DESTROYED THE PEOPLE OF ECLLICION, THEY'D HAVE BEEN DISENTIGRATED LONG BEFORE THEY REACHED THE SOURCE.

FURTHERMORE, OUR TWO "GUESTS" ARE RIGHT AT THE HEART OF IT, AND THEY'RE STILL ALIVE.

I ALSO WANT A TEAM WITH REPULSOR RODS DOWN TO THE HANGAR BAY AT ONCE! CUT THE GRAVITY IN THERE AND PUSH THAT PIRATE SHIP OUT!!

WELL, LET'S NOT TAKE ANY CHANCES. LET'S PREPARE TO LIFT OFF!

THERE IS NO BOMB, YOU IDIOTS! THOSE PIRATES WERE TOO CLEVER BY HALF! DO YOU THINK ANYONE IN THEIR RIGHT MIND WOULD WILLINGLY RIDE IN A SPACESHIP RIGGED WITH A GRAVITY BOMB?!

BUT MA'AM! WHAT ABOUT THE BOMB?!!

THEIR SHIP MUST BE RIGGED WITH A DECEPTION FIELD. IT ONLY LOOKS LIKE A BOMB! NOW GET MOVING!

MUSICAL RADIATION?

YES MA'AM, IT'S VERY POWERFUL, AND COMING FROM INSIDE ECLLICION.

MIIME! WHERE ARE YOU RIGHT NOW? FROM WHERE ARE YOU SENDING THESE WAVES OF MUSICAL RADIATION?

MIIME ... PLEASE ....

WHY, MIIME? WHY? WHY WON'T YOU COME BACK TO THE ARCADIA?

YOU WERE A VALUED MEMBER OF THE CREW! YOU WERE THE BEST NAVIGATOR WE EVER HAD! HARLOCK'S GOING TO BE UPSET AT THIS!!

PLEASE ... PLEASE GIVE MY REGARDS TO HARLOCK ... AND MY APOLOGIES ... BUT I CANNOT RETURN TO THE ARCADIA ... I MAY NEVER BE ABLE TO COME BACK ...

I AM AT THE COSMIC ORGAN ON PLANET RHINE ....

MIIME ... WE NEED SOME ANSWERS.

PLANET RHINE?!?

THE RHINEGOLD ... SOMEONE IS ABOUT TO STEAL IT ... I KNOW IT ... I CAN SENSE IT WILL HAPPEN, AND BY WHO ....

IF IT WERE TO BE STOLEN, AND A RING WAS TO BE FORGED FROM IT ...

THE RHINEGOLD?!

THAT WHICH IS SUPPOSED TO LIE AT THE CENTER OF THE UNIVERSE?!

IT HAS BEEN GUARDED BY THE THREE RHINEMADENS EVER SINCE THE BEGINNING OF TIME ...

... BUT EVEN THEY DO NOT HAVE THE POWER TO WITHSTAND THE MIGHT OF THIS THIEF ...

... IF A RING WERE EVER FORGED WITH THE POWER OF THE RHINEGOLD WITHIN ...

... ITS BEARER WOULD WIELD MIGHT GREATER THAN THE GODS OF OLD! HE COULD BRING ABOUT A NEW DARKNESS ... A NEW RAGNAROK ... A NEW GOTTERDAMMERUNG ... THE UNIVERSE AS WE KNOW IT WOULD CEASE TO EXIST!

THE SAGA OF THE NIBELUNGS ... "DER RING DES NIBELUNGEN ..."

BUT ... BUT ... IT'S NOT REAL! IT CAN'T BE! THAT WAS JUST A MYTH! A GERMANIC LEGEND ON OLD EARTH, REWORKED AS A GRAND OPERA! ARE YOU TELLING ME ALL OF THAT WAS FOR REAL?!?

EVERY LEGEND CARRIES WITH IT A SEED OF TRUTH, DEAR TOCHIRO ... EVERY MYTH WAS INSPRED BY A TRUE STORY ...

... AND THE TRUTH OF THE RHINEGOLD IS THAT IT IS REAL, AND THAT WHOEVER CAN SHAPE AND WIELD IT CAN SHAPE AND WIELD THE DESTINY OF THE UNIVERSE!

MIIME!! WHAT'S WRONG?!

AHHH!!! NO!! HE HAS COME!!!

MIIME!!

TOCHIRO! HARLOCK!! PLEASE ... PLEASE COME ... HURRY ... HE IS HERE ...!!

WE'VE LOST THE SIGNAL.

SHIT!!

DAMN FOOLS! I WARNED THEM! THIS IS BAD ....

THE COLONY'S STRUCTURAL INTEGRITY HAS BEEN COMPROMISED BY THE BLAST. WE'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE!

FORTUNATELY, ECLUCION WAS A MAJOR TRADING POST IN THIS SECTOR. WE'VE GOT PLENTY OF STARSHIPS FROM WHICH TO PICK AND CHOOSE! NOT A LOT OF TIME TO DO IT, THOUGH ... AND WE NEED SOMETHING WITH BOTH "LEGS" AND RANGE. THIS ONE LOOKS GOOD ... !

SURELY YOU'RE JOKING, TOCHIRO? ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS BACKTRACK THE MUSICAL RADIATION TO ITS SOURCE. AFTER ALL, MIIME IS THE ONE CAUSING IT AND SHE SAID SHE WAS ON RHINE ITSELF --

THE ONLY PROBLEM IS FINDING THE PLANET RHINE ...

重要文化財運搬専用船

TOCHIRO, WE DON'T HAVE TIME --

CARS!

HOT DAMN!!

AND IF THE UNIVERSE REALLY IS GOING TO END, THEN I'D RATHER GO OUT IN STYLE ... !!

THEN WE'LL MAKE TIME! BESIDES, THOSE BASTARDS OWE ME FOR WHAT THEY DID TO MY LOVELY VINTAGE 150SL!

IT'S PART OF THE BREED, LOVE. NOW TO SET THE SHIP'S NAVIGATIONAL COMPUTER SO IT CAN AUTOMATICALLY TRACK MIIME'S MUSICAL RADIATION TO ITS SOURCE ... AND ... !!

YOU AND YOUR TOYS ....

THAT'S THE LOCATION OF THE PLANET RHINE!

THAT'S IT!!!

IT BECKONS TO US LIKE A BRILLIANT BLUE JEWEL SET AMID THE TAPESTRY OF HEAVEN.


HELP US
HELP
THE GOLD
OF PLANET
RHINE
HAS BEEN
STOLEN

... PLANTS AND TREES, RIVERS AND OCEANS ... IT'S LIKE SOMETHING YOU'D READ ABOUT IN A FAIRY TALE.

... BUT WITH A CLIMATE LIKE THAT OF NO NORMAL ASTEROID! BREATHABLE ATMOSPHERE ...

BEHOLD! THE PLANET RHINE!! WELL, THE ASTEROID RHINE, REALLY ....

IT'S IMPOSSIBLE FOR AN ASTEROID WITH SO SMALL A MASS TO HAVE ALL OF THIS ... AND YET HERE IT IS! UNBELIEVABLE!

WHAT A MAGNIFICENT PIECE OF ENGINEERING!

WHEE-OOOHHH!!! WOULD YOU LOOK AT THAT?! LOOKS LIKE IT TOOK A DIRECT HIT FROM SOMETHING MASSIVE - AND FROM HIGH ORBIT, TOO!

LET'S HOPE MIIME WASN'T CAUGHT IN THAT BLAST. EVEN AS POWERFUL AS SHE IS, I DON'T THINK SHE WOULD HAVE SURVIVED THAT ....

HERE COME THE THREE RHINEMAIDENS ... MAYBE THEY CAN TELL US WHAT HAPPENED, AND IF MIIME STILL LIVES ....

I DON'T SEE HER ANYWHERE.

ARE YOU SURE IT'S THEM? LOOKS MORE LIKE A SCHOOL OF BROWN TROUT ... NO ... WAIT ... I'M SORRY, YOU'RE RIGHT. I CAN SEE THEM RISING NOW ....

SOME OF THE OLD LEGENDS SAY THAT THE RHINEMAIDENS ARE MERMAIDS ...

MAYBE YOU NEED GLASSES, LIKE ME. [CRACKLE] ANYWAY, HERE THEY COME...

ACTUALLY, THEY LOOK JUST LIKE US HUMANS, AND CAN LIVE EQUALLY WELL IN BOTH WATER AND AIR ...



SOMETHING'S FORMING ON THE SURFACE!!

SOME KIND OF TEMPORAL WHIRLPOOL! I CAN'T CONTROL THE SHIP!!

WHAT THE HELL?!!

MIIME, WHY DID YOU LEAVE THE ARCADIA?

OH, WE JUST LIKE TO ACT AS BATS NOW AND THEN.

WE HAVE MUCH TO DISCUSS ... BUT TELL ME. WHY ARE YOU HANGING UPSIDE-DOWN IN YOUR SPACESHIP LIKE THAT?

TOCHIRO ... EMERALDAS ... YOU CAME! I'M SO GLAD YOU CAME, ALTHOUGH I FEAR IT MAY BE TOO LATE.

I MUST BEG YOUR FORGIVENESS, AS I MUST ALSO DO TO HARLOCK FOR LEAVING HIS SHIP, BUT THE MATTER AT HAND WAS MOST URGENT! THE FATE OF THE RHINEGOLD IS NOT TO BE TREATED LIGHTLY! BUT ALAS! I HAVE FAILED, AND THE RHINEGOLD HAS BEEN STOLEN.

PLEASE ... PLEASE GO BACK. FOR ME?

MIIME, HARLOCK WAS VERY UPSET WHEN YOU LEFT THE ARCADIA.

I SOMETIMES WONDER ABOUT YOU, LITTLE MAN.

WHO, ME?

TOCHIRO, YOU CAN BE SO FLIPPANT SOMETIMES. CAN'T YOU SEE THAT MIIME IS UPSET?

... AND NOW, THE RING WILL BE MADE ... AND THE TWILIGHT OF THE GODS WILL COME.

EMERALDAS, I DON'T THINK SHE'S LISTENING ...

I COULD NOT STOP HIM. DESPITE ALL MY POWERS, I COULD NOT STOP THE THEFT OF THE RHINEGOLD. ALL I COULD MANAGE WAS TO PROTECT THESE THREE, WHILE THE THIEF GOT AWAY ....

EVEN I, THE LAST OF THOSE NIBELUNG WOMEN OF POWER WHO ARE STILL FREE TO ROAM THE SEA OF STARS - EVEN I COULD NOT STOP HIM. HE WAS TOO STRONG. I COULD NOT TOUCH HIM ....

AT THAT TIME, THE GODS UNMADE THE RING ... RETURNED IT TO ITS PRIMITIVE STATE ... AND ITS SLENDER CIRCLE OF POWER ONCE AGAIN BECAME A LIFELESS MASS OF ORE .... IT WAS HIDDEN IN THE DEPTHS OF THE OCEANS ON THE PLANET RHINE SO IT COULD NEVER BE REMADE ... BUT NOW ...

THE LAST TIME A RING WAS MADE FROM THE RHINEGOLD, ITS BEARER DESTROYED THE UNIVERSE AS IT EXISTED THEN - REDUCING IT TO NOTHING. IT HAD TO BE MADE AGAIN ...

... BUT NOW, THE ONE WHO STOLE THE RHINEGOLD INTENDS TO FORGE A NEW RING ...

... MIIME ...

... AND IF THAT HAPPENS ... THE ONE WHO WIELDS THIS NEW RING WILL BE MASTER OF THE UNIVERSE - NO, OF ALL UNIVERSES ... OF EVEN THE GODS THEMSELVES! I COULD NOT STOP IT ... I TRIED ... BUT I COULD NOT ...

... BUT TELL ME THIS. WHY THE RHINEGOLD? HOW CAN THIS ONE CHUNK OF METAL HAVE THE POWER TO REMAKE THE ENTIRE UNIVERSE, AND OTHERS, TOO?

NOW THIS GUY WHO STOLE THE RHINEGOLD IS NO ORDINARY THIEF, TO BE SURE ...

... MIIME, CALM DOWN. GET A GRIP ON YOURSELF. YOU SAVED ME, REMEMBER? YOU ALSO SAVED THE RHINEMAIDENS. YOU DID THAT MUCH GOOD, AT LEAST.

... BUT CAME FROM THE FORGES OF THE GODS IN THE DAWN OF TIME, WHERE ALL THINGS BEGAN. I SAW WITH MY OWN EYES THE FIRST RING THAT WAS FORGED FROM THE RHINEGOLD, AND THE VAST POWERS ITS BEARER WIELDED ... POWER OVER THE VERY FABRIC OF CREATION ITSELF ...

... THE GOLD THAT IS THE RHINEGOLD IS NOT NORMAL GOLD ...

I SAW THE UNIVERSE MADE, AND THEN DESTROYED, AND THEN UNMADE, AND THEN MADE ANEW -- ALL WITH THE POWER OF THE RING ...

MIIME, SNAP OUT OF IT! YOU'RE IN SHOCK! OF COURSE HARLOCK'S GOING TO COME! BUT WE'RE HERE RIGHT NOW, SO HAUL JETS AND GET IN HERE!

DEAR HARLOCK ... IF ONLY YOU COULD SEE WHAT ROAD YOU WILL TAKE ...

I MUST WAIT ... HARLOCK WILL COME ... I WILL WAIT ...

MIIME!!

HARLOCK ... HE IS HERE ...

WHA--?! WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "HARLOCK IS HERE?!" EMERALDAS, SEE IF OUR SHIP'S PICKED UP ANYTHING

ROTATE ALL GUNS 45 DEGREES TO STARBOARD! ELEVATION, 13 DEGREES!!

TARGET: ENEMY VESSEL!!

MAIN PULSAR CANNON ARMED AND STANDING BY, SIR!!

FIRE!!!



MY SHIP!!

GODDAMNIT HARLOCK! MY CAPS!! MY BEAUTIFUL ANTIQUE CAPS!! MY NEW ISOSU!!! YOU SON OF A BITCH!!!!

LET ME GUESS. YOU FORGOT TO CHANGE THE SHIP'S IDENT CODES. DIDN'T YOU, TOCHIRO?

THINGS?!

THOSE WERE PRICELESS!!

GIGGLE

OH, TOCHIRO ... THEY'RE ONLY THINGS. THEY CAN BE REPLACED.

HARLOCK!! DO YOU KNOW WHAT YOU JUST DID?!! THAT SHIP YOU JUST BLEW UP WAS MY SHIP! MY SHIP!! THAT SHIP HAD A FANTASTIC ANTIQUE SPORTS CAR COLLECTION IN THE HOLD, AND YOU BLEW IT UP!! THE WHOLE THING !!!!

AH, THERE YOU ARE! HOW GOES IT, TOCHIRO?

I'M SORRY, TOCHIRO. I DIDN'T KNOW. WE WERE CHASING AN UNKNOWN BATTLECRUISER THAT ATTACKED US, AND IT FLED HERE. WHEN WE WE SPOTTED YOUR SHIP, AND SINCE IT DIDN'T FLASH AN IDENT CODE, WELL ...

THE ONE WHO STOLE THE RHINEGOLD ... HE IS THE ONE YOU WERE FOLLOWING.

THE RHINEGOLD? YOU MEAN IT'S HAPPENING AGAIN, MIIME?

YES, HARLOCK. THE RHINEGOLD. THAT SAME GOLD OF THE EARTH LEGENDS OF OLD, WHICH LAY HIDDEN UNDER THE WATERS OF THIS FARAWAY PLANET, PROTECTED FROM PERIL, UNTIL TODAY

APPARENTLY THE LOSS OF THE RHINEGOLD HAS MADE ITS CORE UNSTABLE.

READINGS INDICATE THAT THIS PLANET IS ABOUT TO EXPLODE.

MIIME, PLEASE COME WITH US.

THEIR FATE WAS TIED TO THE RHINEGOLD. WITHOUT IT, THEY HAVE NO REASON TO EXIST.

WE CANNOT SAVE THEM, EMERALDAS. THIS IS THEIR DESTINY. SAD AS IT MAY BE, WE MUST LEAVE THEM TO IT.

WHAT ABOUT THE RHINEMAIDENS? WE DON'T HAVE ROOM FOR THEM!

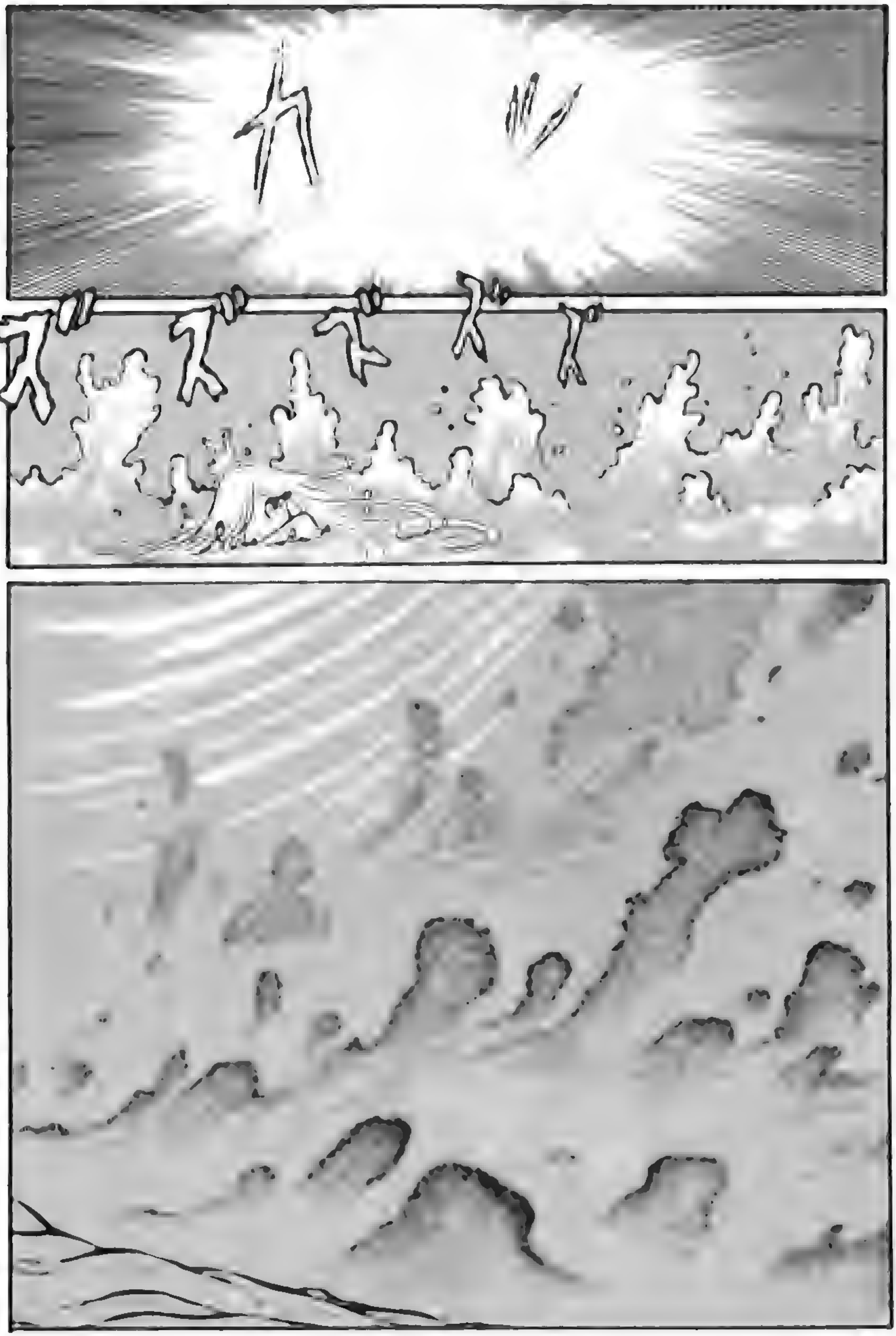
OUR THIEF APPARENTLY LAID HIS PLANS WELL IN ADVANCE, AND FOLLOWED THEM TO THE LETTER.

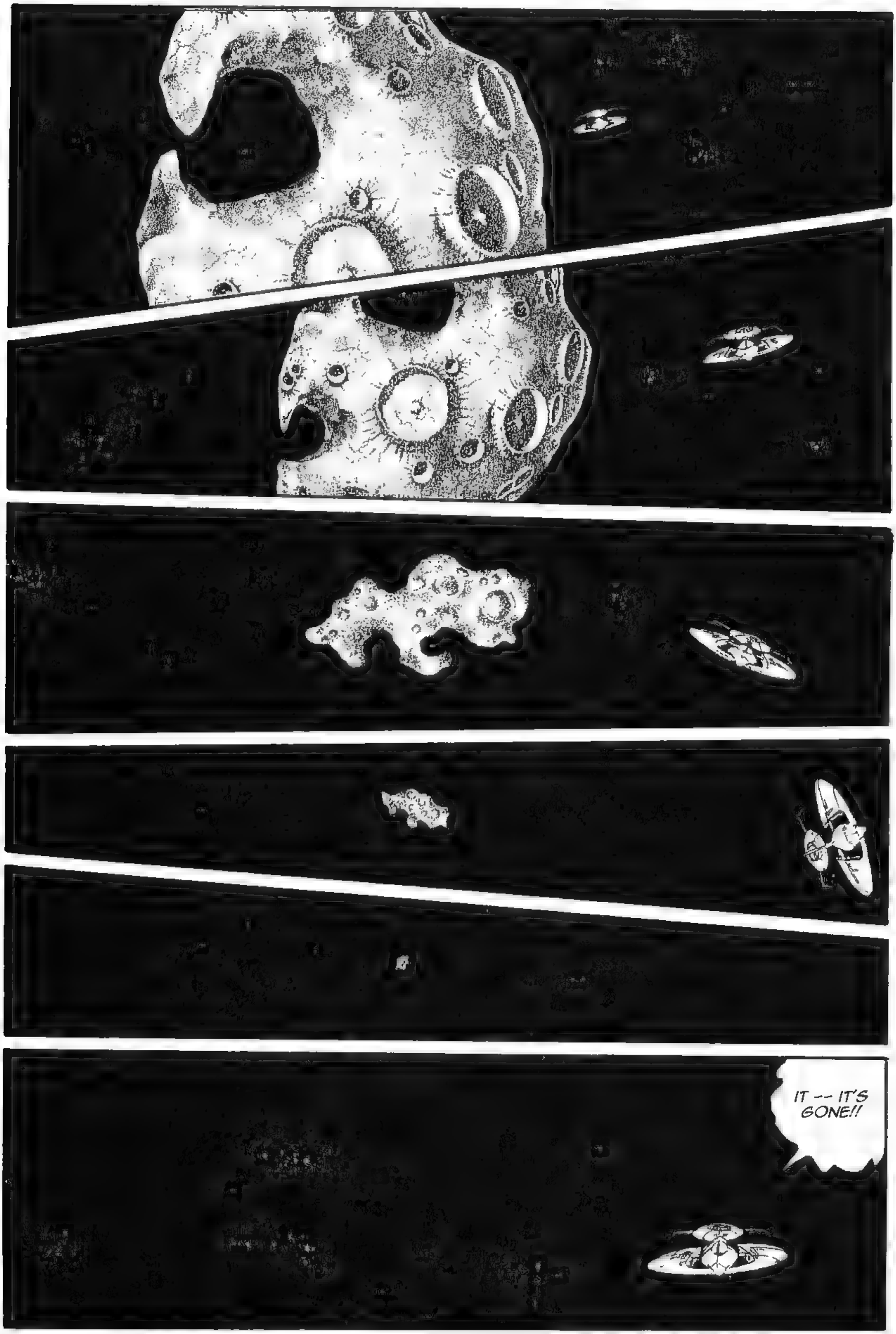
THIS IS GOING TO BE A TIGHT FIT. HOPE YOU DON'T MIND, MIIME.

THEY WILL DIE HERE ON PLANET RHINE, EVEN AS IT WAS FORETOLD.

HOW CAN HARLOCK TELL THAT THE PLANET'S GOING TO EXPLODE? IT LOOKS PERFECTLY NORMAL TO ME!

WAIT ... I'M SUDDENLY GETTING SOME WEIRD READINGS HERE ... OH, SHIT!!




IT -- IT'S GONE!!

AND THERE IT GOES. SUCH A GLORIOUS SIGHT.

'BYE.

ANY NEWS OF MY SISTER MIIME? DID SHE GET AWAY IN TIME?

WE LOST HER TRACE IN THE EXPLOSION.

I SEE. WHAT A PITY. PLEASE FORGIVE ME, DEAR SISTER, BUT THIS IS SOMETHING I HAVE TO DO, AND YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS GOT IN MY WAY.

WHAT ARE YOUR ORDERS, MASTER?

THE GOLD WILL REQUIRE SPECIAL TREATMENT FOR IT TO BE PROPERLY FORGED INTO A NEW RING. KNOWLEDGE OF THIS PROCESS EXISTS ON ONLY ONE PLANET -- EARTH.

PARDON ME, MASTER, BUT THERE ARE MANY WORLDS WHOSE ABILITIES IN METAL FORGING EQUAL OR SURPASS THOSE OF EARTH.

YET EARTH IS THE ONE THAT LIKES THE CLOSEST BOTH TO US AND OUR ROUTE BACK TO VALHALLA ... AND IT IS HOME TO THE INVENTOR OF THE DAIBA PROCESS ....

AH, YES. IF IT WERE ONLY THAT EASY ....

WITHOUT THE RING, OUR FLEET COULD NEVER TRAVERSE THE GATEWAY BETWEEN THE UNIVERSES ON ITS OWN.

BE THAT AS IT MAY, SIR, AND EVEN WITH THE POWER OF THE RING AT YOUR COMMAND, THERE IS NO GUARANTEE OF SUCCESS IN THIS.

ONE DOES NOT QUESTION THE MAN DESTINED TO BE THE SALVATION OF ONE'S RACE. IT IS ENOUGH TO FOLLOW.

ENOUGH!! YOUR DUTY IS TO OBEY ORDERS, AS THEY ARE GIVEN, WITHOUT QUESTION. IS THAT CLEAR?

SET COURSE FOR THE PLANET EARTH!!!

THERE ISN'T ANYTHING LIKE THAT IN ANY DATABASE OF ANY KNOWN SPACEFARING RACE. A PLANET-KILLING BATTLECRUISER ... !!

AND THIS IS YOUR TIME RADAR READING ON THE SHIP YOU WERE CHASING, HARLOCK? I'LL SAY THIS MUCH FOR IT ...

DON'T CRY, MIIME. WE'LL FIND THIS THIEF. WE'LL RECOVER THE RHINEGOLD ...

... SOMEHOW ...



The Rhinegold

Ring 03 - The Tale of the Nibelungen

UMM, SIR? THERE'S A YOUNG LADY HERE TO PAY THE DAIBA LABRATORY A VISIT.

A YOUNG LADY?

THAT'S WHAT I SAID, SIR. SHE SAYS THAT SHE KNEW YOUR LATE FATHER.

MY ... MY FATHER?

THE EARTH AT THE TIME OF CAPTAIN HARLOCK HAD CHANGED MUCH FROM ITS PASTORAL BLISS OF THE 20TH CENTURY. IT WAS A WORLD OF METAL AND MACHINES -- A PLANET HUMMING WITH ALL KINDS OF MASS MARKET INDUSTRIAL ACTIVITY ...

AND ONE DID NOT WORK UNLESS ONE WANTED. FOR THOSE WHO DID, THE TALENTS OF THE SKILLED ARTIFICER WERE HIGHLY PRIZED ..

YOU SAY YOU KNEW MY FATHER?

YES, I DID.

CAFE ∞

TOYOTA

Coffee ∞

CAFE'

IT WAS ABOUT TWO YEARS AGO. YOU MEAN YOU'VE BEEN AWAY FROM EARTH THAT LONG?

I DIDN'T KNOW HE HAD DIED.

I'M SORRY YOU COULDN'T SEE HIM AGAIN.

YES ... I TRAVEL A LOT. I'M SORRY TO HEAR ABOUT YOUR FATHER. FORGIVE ME.

DO YOU REMEMBER ME, TADASHI?

NO ... CAN'T SAY THAT I DO, MISS ... ?

I REMEMBER WHEN YOU WERE BORN. YOUR FATHER WAS SO PROUD.

... SOMETIMES I WONDER IF THE ENTIRE UNIVERSE IS STARTING TO SPEED UP ....

TIME PASSES SO QUICKLY. YOU, WHO WERE ONCE A CHILD, ARE A YOUNG MAN. TIME MOVES TOO FAST ...

... I REMEMBER IT. YOUR FATHER USED TO WEAR IT WHEN ... WHEN I KNEW HIM.

THAT JACKET ...

EXCUSE ME, BUT ... AND I DON'T KNOW HOW TO SAY THIS WITHOUT BEING RUDE, BUT WHO ARE YOU? HOW DID YOU KNOW MY FATHER? AND WHAT'S WITH THE FUNERAL GETUP?

OH, THIS? IT'S A BUTTON BROACH. KINDA LIKE A GIRL'S CAMEO OR LOCKET. I FOUND IT IN MY FATHER'S THINGS. IT'S SUPPOSED TO BE MADE FROM RED EMERALD.

WHA--?

MY, BUT THAT'S AN UNUSUAL BUTTON ON YOUR SHIRT.

IT'S GOT A PICTURE OF MY FATHER INSIDE.

IT'S LOVELY. NOT THE KIND OF THING A YOUNG MAN NORMALLY WEARS, UNLESS HE HAS A REASON. WHAT IS YOUR REASON, TADASHI?

DAD ....

HE GOT IT BACK WHEN HE USED TO TRAVEL A LOT IN SPACE. NEVER WOULD TELL ME WHAT HE DID DURING THAT TIME.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT? IT'S A RARE STONE, YES, BUT IT'S JUST A RED EMERALD--

THE LOCKET ITSELF IS THE CLUE TO YOUR FATHER'S LOST PAST, TADASHI.

YOU'RE HALF RIGHT. HE WAS A SPACE PIRATE ...

YOU MEAN MY FATHER WAS A SPACE PIRATE? THAT HE WAS A CREMAN ON THE QUEEN EMERALDAS?!

RED ... EMERALD ...

EMERALDA ...

..ALDAS!

I NEVER KNEW ....

... BUT HE ONLY KNEW EMERALDAS. HIS WAS ANOTHER SHIP.

WELL, I DIDN'T WANT TO AT FIRST, BUT HE KEPT INSISTING I LEARN SOME KIND OF SKILL TO SUPPORT MUSELF, SO I DID. I'D DARESAY I'M AS GOOD AS HE EVER WAS.

AND AFTER THAT, HE CAME BACK TO EARTH AND "MADE GOOD," AS THEY MIGHT SAY. I SEE YOU'VE TAKEN OVER THE BUSINESS HE STARTED.

SOON, VERY SOON, SOMEONE IS GOING TO COME TO SEE YOU.

TADASHI, THIS IS VERY IMPORTANT ....

HE WILL ASK IF IT IS POSSIBLE FOR YOU TO MAKE A RING OUT OF A SINGLE PIECE OF GOLD.

WHEN HE DOES, I WANT YOU TO REFUSE. THAT'S ALL. JUST REFUSE TO FORGE A RING FOR HIM.

THE DAIBA PROCESS? FOR A RING?! THAT'S SILLY!!

THIS IS THE REASON WHY I CAME HERE - TO MAKE SURE THAT THE DAIBA PROCESS ISN'T USED TO MAKE THAT RING.

MY FATHER WAS CONSIDERED ONE OF THE BEST METALLURGISTS IN THE GALAXY. THAT'S WHY THE DAIBA PROCESS WAS NAMED FOR HIM.

I'VE NEVER THOUGHT OF IT BEING APPLIED TO RINGMAKING ... BUT NOW I THINK I SEE HOW IT COULD BE DONE.

THERE ARE VERY FEW PLACES IT COULD BE DONE. I CAN ONLY THINK OF A HANDFUL - TWO OR THREE LABORATORIES, A FEW UNIVERSITIES ... AND MY SHOP. OF ALL OF THESE, DAIBA LABS AND ITS SHOP IS THE BEST CHOICE. WE HAVE BOTH THE EQUIPMENT AND THE PERSONNEL - NAMELY, ME.

BUT WHY?

TADASHI, DON'T EVEN THINK ABOUT FORGING THIS RING.

TO BE HONEST, I'M NOT SURE MYSELF. I AM ONLY A MESSENGER SENT BY ANOTHER FRIEND OF YOUR FATHER'S. SHE IS MIIME, THE NIBELUNG SORCERESS OF OLD ....

...AND SHE BEGS YOU, FOR YOUR FATHER'S SAKE, "DO NOT FORGE THIS RING."

I KNOW WHO YOU ARE NOW. I DON[''T REMEMBER YOU, BUT I REMEMBER MY FATHER SPEAKING OFTEN OF YOU ... OF YOUR SADNESS ... OF YOUR KIND AND HONEST SINCERITY. SINCE YOU ARE MY FATHER'S FRIEND, I TRUST YOU ...

WHAT WAS IT THAT MY FATHER USED TO SAY?

"MY SON, ONE DAY YOUR LIFE WILL CHANGE. A STARSHIP WILL ENTER YOUR LIFE - A LOT LIKE THOSE PIRATE SHIPS ABOUT WHICH YOU USED TO READ AND DREAM, SAVE THAT THIS WILL BE THE REAL THING. IT WILL BEAR THE SIGN OF THE SKULL AND CROSSBONES ON ITS SIDE. THAT INSIGNIA WILL ALSO BE WORN ON THE MIGHTY BLACK PENNANT IT BEARS - AN OLD FLAG, WORN WITH YEARS, FRAYED AT THE EDGES AND TINGED IN BLOOD ...

"WHEN YOU SEE THAT SHIP, YOU SHOULD ABANDON EVERYTHING AND FOLLOW ITS CAPTAIN - WITHOUT ANY HESITATION OR REGRET."

I'M GLAD YOU CAME. WHAT YOU'VE SAID, THE WAY YOU SAID IT, EVEN YOUR CLOTHES -- THEY REMINDED ME OF MY FATHER AND HIS WORDS ....

THANK YOU FOR COMING.

MORE OF YOUR FATHER'S OLD FRIENDS ARE COMING TO HELP YOU. BE ON YOUR GUARD UNTIL THEN.

beep!

beep!

NO, THANK YOU -- FOR LISTENING. REMEMBER TO HEED MY WARNING ABOUT THE RING.

MISS MAETEL, THERE'S A BOLKAZANDA GOON SQUAD HEADING YOUR WAY ...

~

I HAVE TO GO. YOUR CURRENT GOVERNMENT DOES NOT WELCOME MY PRESENCE ON EARTH. REMEMBER WHAT I SAID, TADASHI ... AND HELP IS COMING ....

YOU'LL BETTER UNDERSTAND WHAT IS ABOUT TO HAPPEN, ONCE YOU'VE DONE THAT. GOODBYE, TADASHI ....

YOU MIGHT WANT TO READ UP ON YOUR NORSE MYTHS IN THE MEANTIME ... ESPECIALLY THE TALE OF THE RING OF THE NIBELUNGS ....

CAFE ∞

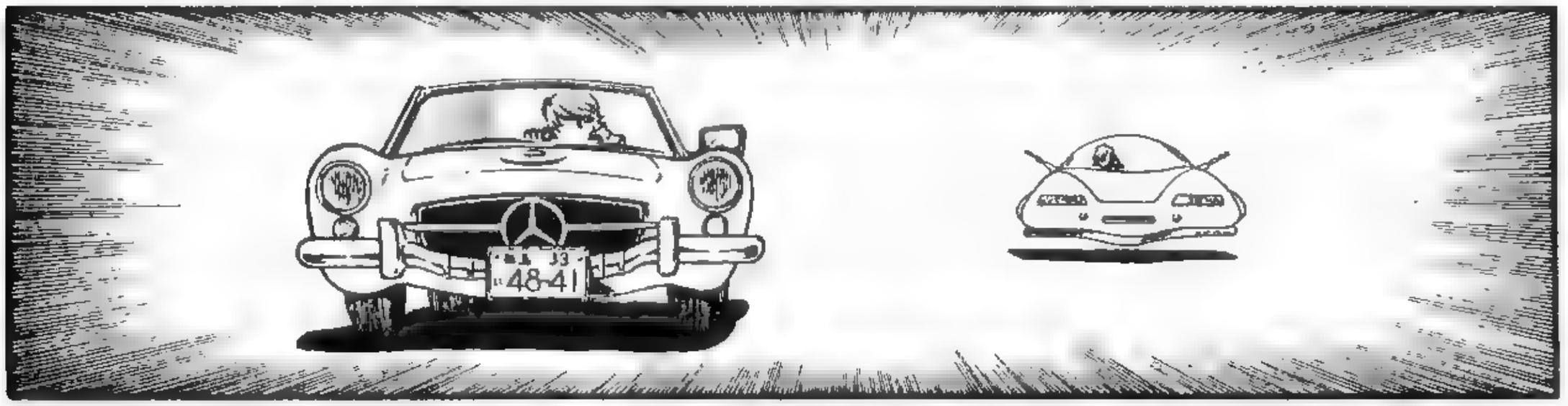
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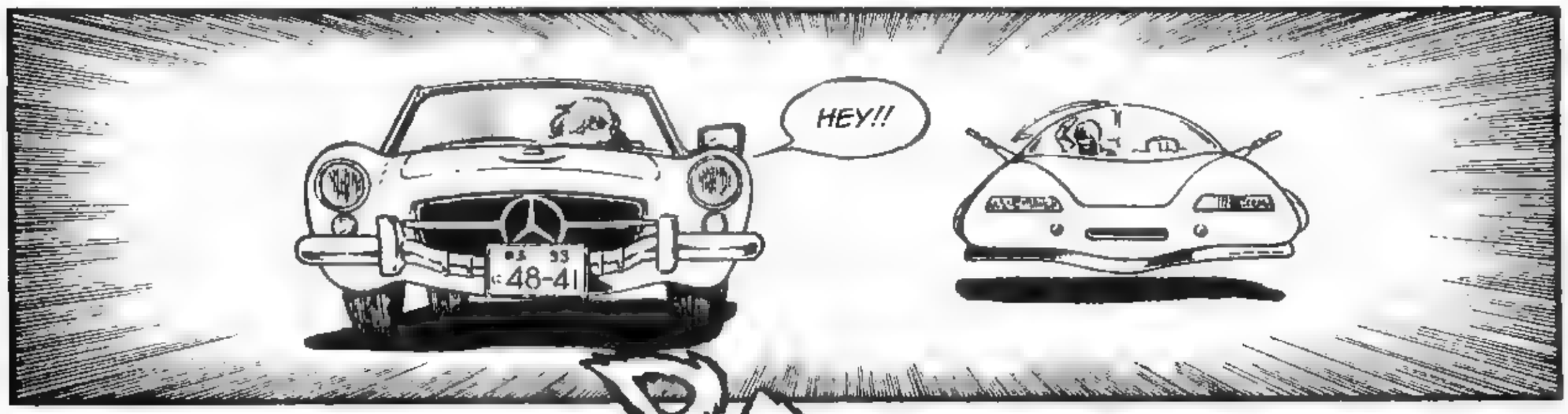
Coffee ∞

CAFE'

NO, MY PRETTY ... YOU ARE NOT THE ONE ...


THE THREE-NINE! SO IT WAS MAETEL!!


48-41


HEY!!
48-41


48-41

YOU'RE AWAKE.

WHA--?!?! WHO THE HELL ARE YOU, AND WHERE AM I?

MY NAME IS NOT IMPORTANT. I BROUGHT YOU HERE AFTER YOU CRASHED YOUR CAR. THIS IS YOUR "SHOP" -- OR RATHER, "HOME?" IS THAT THE RIGHT WORD?

VERY GOOD.

LET ME GUESS. YOU WANT ME TO FORGE A RING FOR YOU, AND YOU'RE GOING TO KILL ME IF I DON'T.

A SINGLE INGOT OF GOLD ... NOT JUST ANY GOLD, MIND YOU ...

HERE IS THE MATERIAL YOU WILL BE USING ...

... AND HOW BIG DO YOU WANT THE RING?

THIS IS THE PUREST AND MOST HOLY GOLD IN ALL OF SPACE AND TIME! IN ALL OF THE UNIVERSE ITSELF!

YOU MUST USE ALL OF IT! EVERY BIT MUST GO INTO THE RING YOU FORGE! THAT IS WHY I SOUGHT YOU OUT. THE FOLD COMPRESSION TECHNIQUE THAT YOUR LATE FATHER INVENTED ... THE DAIBA PROCESS ... THAT IS THE ONLY WAY TO MAKE THE RING I WANT!!

WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO DO WITH WHAT'S LEFT OVER? I WON--

WHY, BIG ENOUGH TO SLIP ONTO MY OWN FINGER, OF COURSE ....

THIS PLACE ... YOUR "SHOP" ... IT IS ONE OF ONLY A FEW IN THIS PART OF THE UNIVERSE CAPABLE OF DOING SUCH A THING ... ALL OF THE EQUIPMENT NEEDED TO FORGE THE RING IS HERE ...

... AND YOU WILL FORGE THE RING FOR ME!! NOW!!!

ENOUGH WITH THE IDLE CHATTER, BOY! YOU HAVE A JOB TO DO ...

NOW DO IT!

MY FATHER BUILT THESE BEFORE HE DIED. HE WORKED WITH A COUPLE OF TRUE GENIUSES IN HIS DAY. HE CLAIMED THEY TAUGHT HIM EVERYTHING HE KNEW ABOUT SUCH THINGS. THEY'VE PROVEN VERY HARD TO DUPLICATE ....

THE DAY MAY COME, BOY, WHEN YOUR PEOPLE WILL RIVAL MY OWN!

WHAT BEAUTIFUL MACHINES! I DID NOT COMPREHEND JUST HOW FAR THE TECHNOLOGY OF YOU HUMANS HAD ADVANCED THROUGH THE YEARS!!

THEN YOU DIE. IS THAT CLEAR?

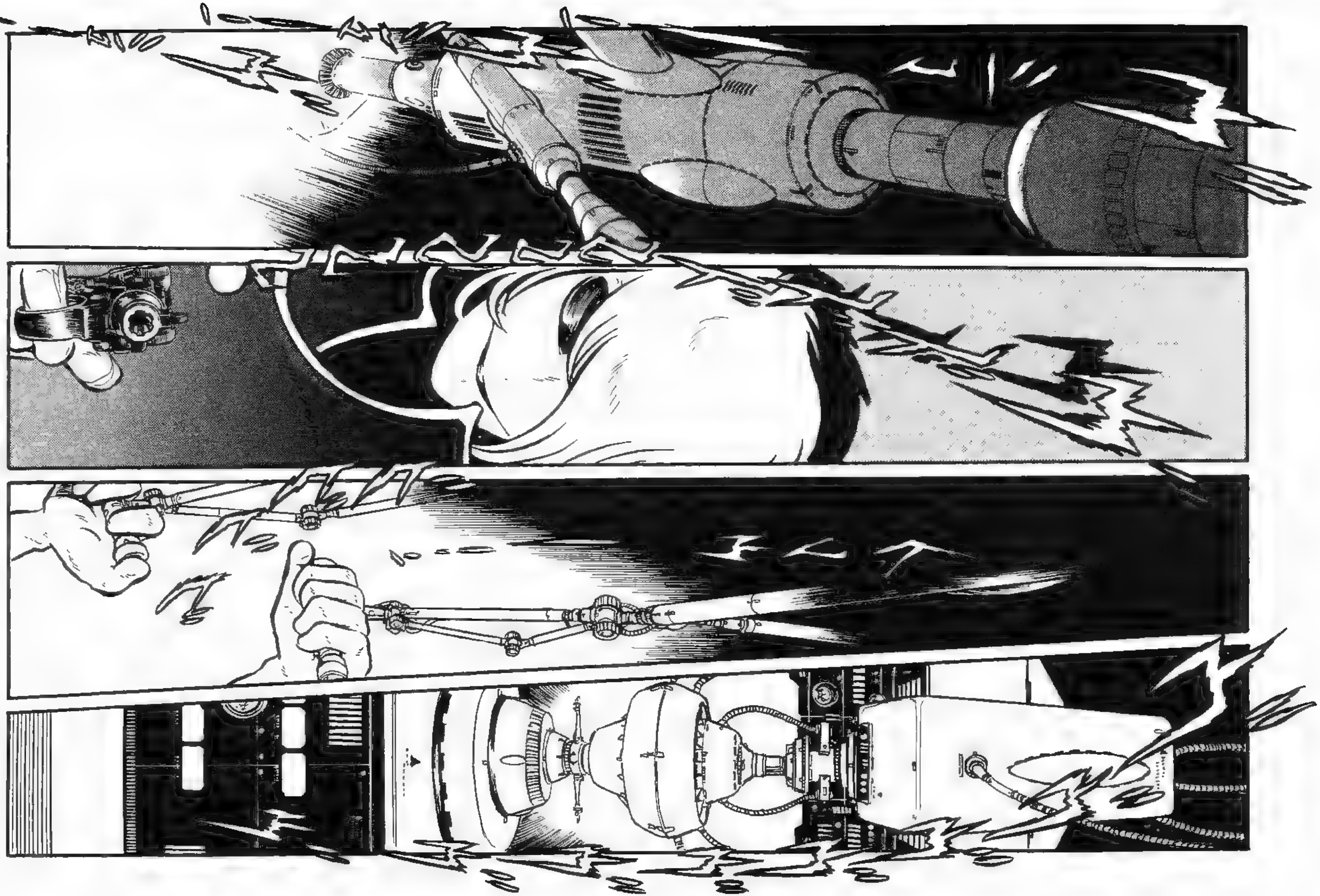
AND WHAT IF I SHOULD REFUSE TO MAKE THE RING?

THEN YOU ALSO DIE. YOU HAVE NO CHOICE.

AND IF I SHOULD SOMEHOW FAIL TO MAKE THIS RING THE WAY YOU DESCRIBED?

GUESS I DON'T ....

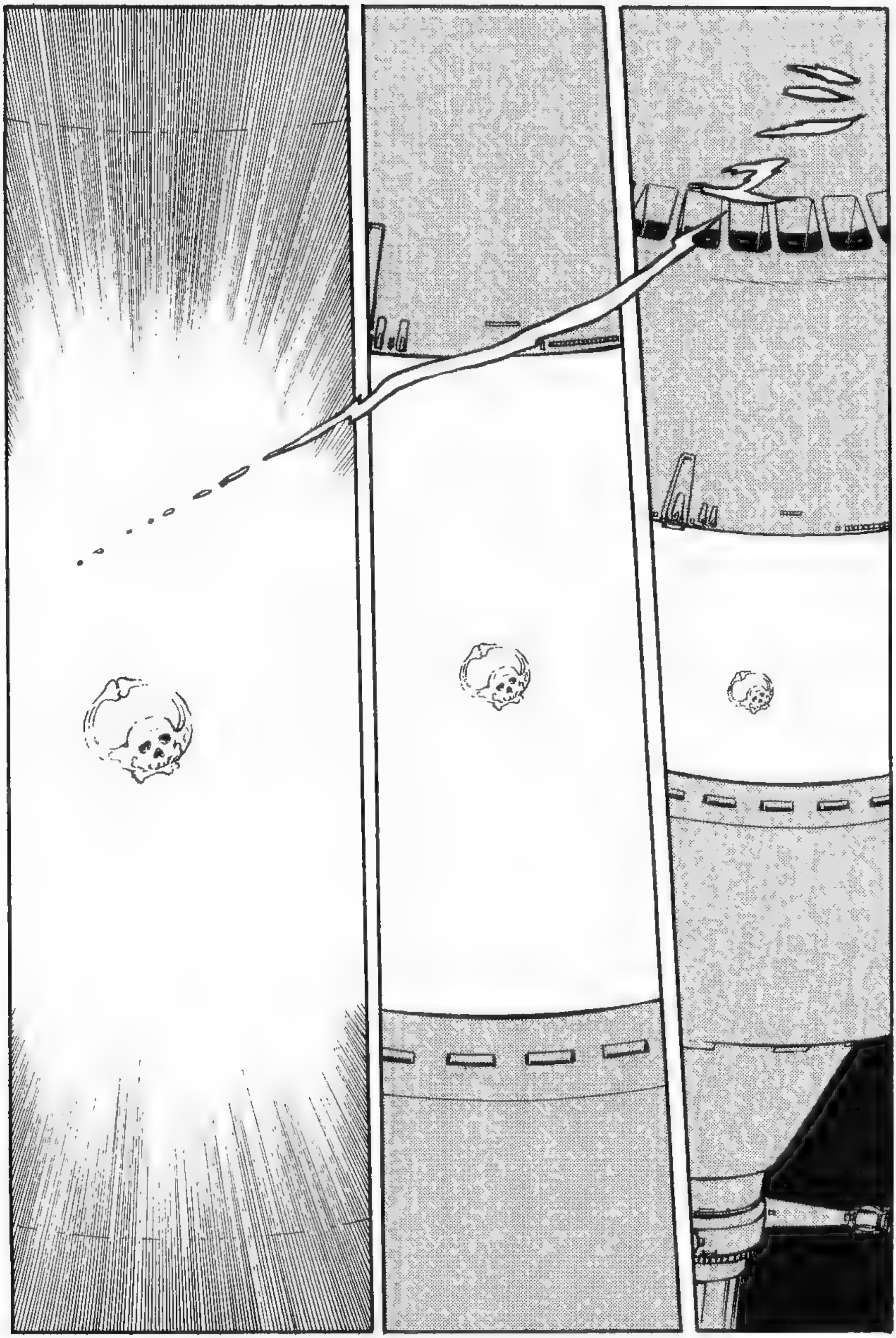
... AT LAST ... !!



NO! NOT YET!!

ARE YOU DONE YET?

DAMNIT! I'M TOO LATE ....



BUT IT'S STILL HOT! IT'LL BURN YOUR FINGERS OFF!!

THANK YOU. I'LL BE TAKING THAT NOW.

YOU'VE GOT TO COOL THE METAL BEFORE YOU CAN HANDLE IT! NOW WILL YOU STAND BACK AND LET ME WORK?!

LISTEN! YOU MAY HAVE THE GUN, BUT I'M THE ONE WHO KNOWS ABOUT FORGING!

YEAAGHH!!

NOT LONG. JUST A FEW MORE MINUTES. THIS PART IS WHERE I FINALIZE THE DESIGN. SPEAKING OF WHICH, IS THERE ANY WAY YOU WANT THIS RING TO LOOK? ANYTHING IN PARTICULAR?

OF COURSE ... MY APOLOGIES. HOW LONG WILL THIS COOLING PROCESS TAKE?

INDULGE YOURSELF, SO LONG AS IT WILL FIT MY FINGER ....

YEAH, IT'S DONE. YOU CAN TAKE IT AND LEAVE ... AND GOOD RIDDANCE.

AND THAT'S IT? THE RING IS FINISHED?

I DON'T WANT ANYTHING FROM YOU. JUST GET THE HELL OUT OF MY SHOP AND GO, GOT IT?

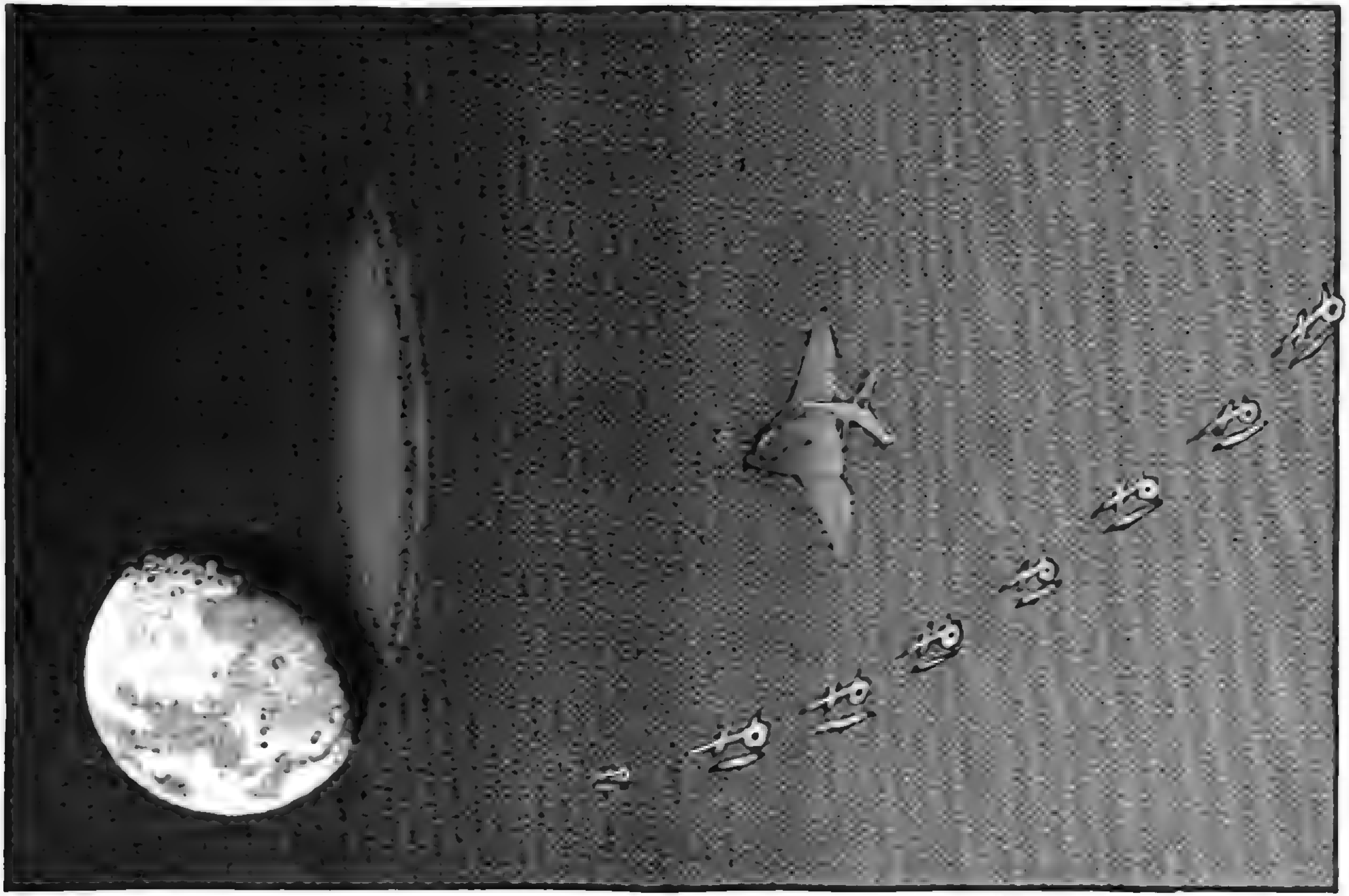
OH, BUT I CAN'T LEAVE WITHOUT GIVING YOU SOMETHING FOR YOUR SERVICES ...

HEY, NOW, WHAT ARE YOU DOING? NO--!!

OH, BUT I INSIST!

YOU

A BULLET IS A SMALL PRICE TO PAY FOR THE RING THAT WILL GRANT ME ULTIMATE POWER OVER ALL THE UNIVERSE, AND EVER THE GODS THEMSELVES!!





The Rhinegold

Ring 04 - The *Arcadia*

... BUT WHO?

I SHOULD BE DEAD RIGHT NOW ... UNLESS ... UNLESS SOMEONE ..

I DID.

WHO COULD HAVE TURNED ON THE ANTI-INTRUDER SYSTEM AND SAVED ME?

NGHH ...

I'VE BEEN SHOT!

... A GUY LIKE ME?

UHH, YEAH .. I JUST DIDN'T EXPECT TO SEE ...

A FRIEND OF YOUR FATHER'S. DIDN'T MAETEL TELL YOU I WAS COMING?

WHO ARE YOU?!

SORRY I WAS LATE. I WAS JUST IN TIME TO TURN ON THE SYSTEM. IT CAUGHT THE BULLET RIGHT AS IT HIT YA.

EVERY NOW AND THEN, WHEN YOU WERE AWAY AT SCHOOL OR RUNNING AROUND WITH YOUR FRIENDS, HE'D GIVE US A CALL. IT WAS GREAT TO TALK TO HIM AGAIN. IF IT HADN'T BEEN FOR THE FACT WE WERE A LONG WAY AWAY, WE MIGHT HAVE COME BACK FOR ANOTHER VISIT ... *SIGH*

I WISH I COULD HAVE COME BACK EARLIER, AND SEEN YOUR FATHER AGAIN. HE WAS QUITE A GUY -- BUT I GUESS YOU KNOW THAT.

I GOT HERE JUST YOU WERE FINISHING THE RING FOR THAT THIEF. HEY, I KNOW HE HAD YOU UNDER GUNPOINT, AND THAT YOU DIDN'T HAVE ANY CHOICE. STILL, I WISH IT HADN'T BEEN MADE ...

SO, HOW 'BOUT IT, KID? WOULD YOU LIKE A CHANCE TO RECLAIM YOUR HONOR, AND UNMAKE WHAT YOU MADE? WOULD YOU LIKE TO FOLLOW IN YOUR FATHER'S PATH, AND JOIN WITH US?

... BECAUSE IT'S IS GOING TO CAUSE A LOT OF TROUBLE FOR EVERYONE IN THE UNIVERSE, UNLESS WE CAN GET IT BACK AND UNMAKE IT SOMEHOW.

DO YOU WANT TO FIGHT UNDER THE BLACK FLAG?

I FIRST DESIGNED THESE BACK IN THE DAYS AFTER THE WAR, AFTER THE MACHINE MEN FIRST CAME TO EARTH. I'VE SINCE REFINED IT QUITE A BIT. THIS ONE IS THE ORIGINAL PROTOTYPE.

WELL, YES AND NO. IT'S BASED ON A COSMO GUN SPECIAL, BUT I'VE MADE A FEW LITTLE TWEAKS OF MY OWN ....

A HANDGUN THAT CAN KILL A MACHINE MAN?!?

TH-- THANK YOU ...

OUR CAPTAIN GAVE THIS ONE TO YOUR FATHER AS A GIFT, AFTER I MADE THE NEW DESIGN. SINCE YOU'RE HIS SON, I NOW GIVE IT TO YOU.

YOU NOW HOLD IN YOUR HAND A COSMO DRAGOON! THE ULTIMATE SPACE WARRIOR'S HAND WEAPON!!

THIS WAS YOUR FATHER'S ....

THAT ... THAT LOOKS LIKE ... A COSMO GUN SPECIAL!

OH MY GOD! CAN IT BE?!

IS THAT REALLY A MERCEDES-BENZ 150SL?! YOU YOUNG RASCAL! I WANT IT! CAN I HAVE IT?!

DO YOU OFTEN CONVERT CLASSIC CARS INTO WORKING SPACESHIPS?

WELL, A MAN'S GOTTA TRAVEL IN STYLE, YOU KNOW. I HAVE A THING FOR WHAT I LIKE TO CALL "HISTORIC TECHNOLOGY." THE BEST OF THE PAST JOINED WITH THE BEST OF THE PRESENT.

IT'S ONLY FITTING TO TRAVEL IN STYLE TO A GREAT ADVENTURE ....

DID YOU KNOW I HAD TWO OF THESE BEAUTIES BLOWN OUT FROM UNDER ME RECENTLY? I ALMOST BLEW A GASKET BOTH TIMES! CLASSICS LIKE THESE ARE VERY HARD TO COME BY. I'M SURE GLAD YOU HAD ONE ....

THA-- ... THAT'S THE GREAT PIRATE SHIP ARCADIA! THAT'S CAPTAIN HARLOCK'S SHIP!!

WELL, IT'S ACTUALLY THE SECOND ARCADIA .... THE FIRST ONE'S IN DRYDOCK RIGHT NOW, GETTING ONE SERIOUS OVERHAUL. OUR SECOND MATE'S IN CHARGE OF THAT. THAT'S WHY YOU WON'T SEE HER AROUND. A SHAME ... SHE'S CUTE!

WHY, THANK YOU. THAT'S THE WAY I MAKE EVERYTHING ... "A BLEND OF THE OLD AND NEW ...."

I LIKE THE WAY IT BLENDS BOTH THE OLD AND THE NEW -- LIKE WHAT YOU WERE TALKING ABOUT EARLIER. IT'S NOT JUST ANY STARSHIP ....

IT SEEMS MY FATHER DIDN'T TELL ME A LOT OF THINGS ABOUT HIS PAST LIFE ...

NINE?! MAN, I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOUR FATHER WAS DRINKING AT THE TIME, BUT I CAN ONLY THINK OF FOUR! THERE'S THE ARCADIA HERE - THE SECOND ONE, THAT IS - THE QUEEN EMERALDAS, OF COURSE ...

I THINK MY FATHER ONCE SPOKE ABOUT THIS. IT WAS A LONG TIME AGO. "THERE ARE NINE GREAT PIRATE SHIPS, TADASHI, AND THEY ALL HAVE GREAT CAPTAINS."

... AND THEN THE DEATHSHADOW PROPER - THE FIRST ONE, ALSO DESIGNED AND BUILT BY MY FATHER. NINE? OH, WELL - MAYBE HE FOUND OUT ABOUT A FEW MORE I HAVE YET TO BUILD -- OR TO SEE ....

... THERE'S THE FIRST ARCADIA - WHICH IS ACTUALLY THE SECOND DEATHSHADOW, WHICH MY FATHER BUILT ....

OH, COME ON! YOU HAVEN'T SEEN ANYTHING YET! LET'S PARK THIS THING AND GET ABOARD!!

UHHH ... YEAH ....

THE CAPTAIN'S KINDA BUSY AT THE MOMENT -- IF YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN. BEST NOT TO DISTURB HIM ....

WELL, KID? ARE YOU READY TO SEE WHAT LIFE IS LIKE AS A SPACE PIRATE?

... 'CUZ SOMETIMES THE REALITY IS NOT QUITE WHAT YOU EXPECTED.

... !! ...

YET HERE I AM, AND IT'S REALLY HAPPENING. IT'S LIKE A DREAM YOU'VE HAD FOR A LONG TIME, NOW COMING TO LIFE. IF ONLY ALL A MAN'S DREAMS WERE THIS EASY TO FULFILL ....

YOU KNOW, I HEARD A LOT ABOUT THE ARCADIA ... BUT I NEVER THOUGHT I'D EVER SET FOOT ABOARD HER ....

DON'T LOOK AT THAT DREAM TOO CLOSE, KID ....

AND NOW LOOK AT MY PONCHO! IT'S A GOOD THING I'M SO SKINNY -- OTHERWISE I'D BE DEAD RIGHT NOW! SHEESH ... WHAT A DAY! GUESS I'LL HAVE TO SEND THIS AND MY HAT TO MOM SO SHE CAN MEND THEM ...

... BUT LATER. I'M SO TIRED RIGHT NOW, I COULD SLEEP FOR A WEEK!

YOU HAVE NO IDEA OF EVERYTHING I HAD TO GO THROUGH JUST TO GET TO YOU SO YOU COULD STAND HERE AND YAP ON ABOUT THAT DREAM! THOSE DAMN CHECKPOINTS ... BOLKAZANDA'S POLICE ... THE GUNFIGHT ... !!

WELL, NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, YEAH ... I GUESS I AM ....

YOU CAN ORDER WHATEVER YOU WANT, AS LONG AS WE'VE GOT IT ON BOARD. THAT'S ACTUALLY QUITE A LOT, YOU KNOW.

WELL, YOU CAN'T GET ANYTHING DONE ON AN EMPTY STOMACH. FOLLOW THE SIGNS TO THE SHIP'S MESS.

SHIP'S MESS

AREN'T YOU HUNGRY?

WELL, YEAH ....

(YAWN) ARE YOU HUNGRY, KID?

YOU GUYS ARE SLOBS.

THERE'S A FARILY CLEAN SPOT HERE.

YOU'VE GOT THAT RIGHT ....

... UHH, YEAH. WELL, WE DON'T CALL IT THE "SHIP'S MESS" FOR NOTHING.

BY THE WAY, WE CAN SET YOU UP WITH A LAB IN ONE OF THE EMPTY HOLDS. WE CAN EVEN SHIP ALL YOUR GEAR UP FROM EARTH, IF YOU THINK YOU'LL NEED IT ....

I TOLD 'EM NOT TO LET MISS MASU STAY WITH KEI! SHE USED TO KEEP THIS PLACE SPOTLESS!!

WHEN'S THE LAST TIME ANY OF YOU CLEANED THESE TABLES?!

BELCH

UH, I DUNNO. MIGHT BE FIVE WEEKS OR SO ... OR MAYBE EVEN SIX? I FORGET ....

YATTARAN? WHEN'S THE LAST TIME ANYONE CLEANED UP IN HERE?

WE KEEP IT FLASH FROZEN IN THE GALLEY REEFERS, THEN QUICK THAW IT AND PREPARE IT AS NEEDED! THE MENU IS JUST TO HELP YOU KEEP IT ALL STRAIGHT! EAT WHATEVER YOU WANT!

ANY KIND OF FOOD YOU WANT!

UH ... YEAH.

OH, BUT YES WE CAN! WE'RE PIRATES, EH? YATTARAN? DO THE HONORS.

LET'S SEE ... PORK CHOPS, PORK TENDERLOIN, VARIOUS CUTS OF STEAK, CHICKEN "ANY WAY YOU WANT IT," ALL KINDS OF RICE DISHES, HOMEMADE BREAD, FRESH FRUITS AND VEGETABLES, CUSTOM SALADS -- THIS IS IMPOSSIBLE! SURELY YOU CAN'T HAVE ALL OF THIS!!

MENU

DON'T WORRY IF YOU CAN'T EAT IT ALL -- THERE'LL BE PLENTY MORE FOLKS IN LATER TO FINISH OFF THE LEAVINGS ....

... THESE GUYS EAT AND LIVE LIKE PIGS!

JEEZ ...

WE DON'T LIVE LIKE THIS ALL THE TIME -- ONLY WHEN WE'RE IN ORBIT AROUND A PLANET WITH A GOOD FOOD SUPPLY. WE ACTUALLY HAVE TO BE CAREFUL ON LONG TRIPS IN SPACE ...

ACTUALLY, KID, WHAT'S SUPPOSED TO HAPPEN IS THAT A RECYCLING ROBOT COMES ALONG, CLEANS UP THE FOOD, AND THEN REPROCESSES IT FOR LATER.

GAGH!!

THAT WOULD BE THE FAULT OF LUIS, THE NEW ROBOT COOK I'VE INVENTED.

AH!!

A FORK?! YATTARAN! THERE'S A FORK IN THIS MEAT!! WHO THE HELL LEFT IT THERE?!

SO THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED TO THE RECYCLING ROBOT ...! YOU'LL HAVE TO FORGIVE YATTARAN. HE'S A BRIGHT BOY, BUT SOMETIMES HE TENDS TO OVERREACH HIMSELF ....

YES, IT IS YOUR FAULT!!!

GOING THROUGH A BUNCH OF OLD BOOKS I'VE GOT ABOUT THE RING, PICKING OUT THE IMPORTANT PARTS ....

SO WHAT AM I DOING HERE? WHAT'S MY JOB?

YOU GOT IT. I GET MY DATA ANY WAY I CAN. EVEN TODAY, THERE'S A LOT OF STUFF THEY DONT' CONVERT TO DIGITAL DATA.

BOOKS? AS IN THE OLD KIND?!

TO BE PERFECTLY HONEST, THERE'S NOT A WHOLE LOT OF DATA ON THE NIBELUNGEN AND THE RING. OF COURSE THERE'S THE OLD MYTHS, AND ONLINE SUMMARIES OF THE ANCIENT TEXT ... BUT YOU'LL BE WORKING WITH THOSE ACTUAL TEXTS! I'VE SPENT A LOT OF EFFORT ROUNDING THEM UP, AND YOU GET TO COLLATE THE DATA FROM THEM.

FURTHERMORE, SINCE YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE SO FAR WHO'S ACTUALLY SEEN THE THIEF, IN ADDITION TO HAVING BEEN THE POOR FOOL WHO REFORGED THE RING ... WELL, WE THINK YOU WILL BEST KNOW FOR WHAT TO LOOK. MAKE SENSE? HOPE SO ....

WAGNER HAD IT ALL WRONG ... BUT HOW COULD HE KNOW THAT? HE WAS WORKING FROM A BUNCH OF TALES AND LEGENDS, AND THEY WERE ALREADY ANCIENT BY THE TIME HE READ THEM ....

ALL WE KNOW FOR SURE IS THAT HIS NAME IS ALBERICH, AND THAT HE'S ONE OF THE FEW SURVIVING NIBELUNGEN. THEY ARE THE OLDEST HUMANOID RACE IN THE UNIVERSE. THEIR HISTORY GOES ALL THE WAY BACK TO THE BEGINNING OF TIME ITSELF.

WELL, WHAT DO YOU SAY, TADASHI?

ARE YOU READY TO HIT THE BOOKS?

OF COURSE, YOU DON'T HAVE TO GET INVOLVED IF YOU DON'T WANT. BUT, SINCE YOUR HAND PLAYED A PART IN ALL OF THIS, THEN PERHAPS YOU'D LIKE TO LEND US YOUR HAND TO SET THINGS RIGHT.

WEREN'T YOU LISTENING, KID?! HE'S NONE OF THOSE! THAT'S WHY YOU'RE GOING TO BE HITTING THE BOOKS - TO FIND OUT ALL YOU CAN ABOUT HIM!!

ALBERICH! SO THAT'S HIS NAME!! AND HE'S ONE OF THOSE NIBELUNG THINGS? ARE YOU SURE? MAYBE HE'S JUST A PRIVATE DICK, OR A MAFIA HITMAN, OR--

THEY SAY THAT HISTORY RUNS IN PATTERNS ... THAT CERTAIN CYCLES REPEAT OVER AND OVER AGAIN, LIKE A RING ...

WE'VE GOT TO STOP HIM BEFORE THIS WHOLE DAMN MESS STARTS OVER AGAIN! BEFORE HE USES THE RING TO DESTROY THE UNIVERSE!!

WELL, THIS IS ONE "CIRCLE OF DESTINY" THAT WE'RE GOING TO BREAK! WE'RE GOING TO STOP IT BEFORE IT CAN EVEN GET STARTED!!

YEAH ...

AH, HERE WE ARE! THE SHIP'S LIBRARY!!

LOOKS LIKE HE'S HAVING FUN.

YATTARAN CAN BE A BIT EMOTIONAL, BUT HE'S A DAMN FINE FIRST MATE ... WHEN HE'S NOT BEING WEIRD, THAT IS.

SHE'S A BEAUTIFUL WOMAN .... SHE'S ALSO QUITE THE MAGIC USER, ALTHOUGH SHE DOESN'T LORD IT OVER US, THANK GOODNESS.

MIIME ...

SIGH

MIIME TOLD ME. ANOTHER SOURCE YOU NEED TO BECOME FAMILIAR WITH. SHE'S ALSO ONE OF THE NIBELUNGEN. SHE'S BEEN A FRIEND OF OURS FOR A LONG, LONG TIME. SHE ALSO HAPPENS TO BE ALBERICH'S SISTER.

HOW DO YOU KNOW ALL OF THIS?

I'D DO IT MYSELF, BUT I'VE GOT SO MUCH GOING ON RIGHT NOW THAT I JUST DON'T HAVE THE TIME - AND NONE OF THE CREW WILL HELP ME. THAT'S WHY I'M GLAD YOU DECIDED TO JOIN UP WITH US. THERE'S AN OLD COMPUTER OVER THERE WITH SOME ANCIENT VIDEOGAMES, IF YOU NEED TO STOP AND TAKE A BREAK FOR A BIT. BATHROOM'S THE DOOR IN THE FAR CORNER OVER THERE. THINK YOU CAN HANDLE IT?

YOU'LL HAVE TO BE EXTREMELY CAREFUL WITH SOME OF THESE. I, WELL, "BORROWED" THEM FROM A MUSEUM OR TWO

I'VE MANAGED TO GET A COPY OF EVERY OLD MANUSCRIPT THAT SAYS ANYTHING AT ALL ABOUT THE NIBELUNGEN. YOUR JOB, KID, IS TO DIGITIZE IT SO THE COMPUTER CAN DIGEST IT AND COLLATE IT FOR US

GOOD LORD...!!

THERE'S EVEN MANGA ON THE RING STORY?!

I'LL, UH, I'LL INTRODUCE YOU TO THE REST OF THE CREW TONIGHT AT EVENING MESS. 'BYE!

DAS RHEINGOLD

SHEESH ....

THANKS. LATER!

OH, AND WHILE YOU'RE AT IT, WOULD YOU MIND STRAIGHTENING UP A BIT? I'M A RATHER MESSY PERSON ...

... BUT BOOKS ARE SO DAMN BULKY! AND WHY DIDN'T HE DIGITIZE THEM AS HE GOT THEM?! WOULD HAVE SAVED BOTH OF US A LOT OF TIME AND EFFORT! *SIGH* ... OH WELL, BETTER GET STARTED ....

IF I HAVE TO READ THROUGH EVERY ONE OF THESE BOOKS, IT'LL TAKE ME AT LEAST TEN YEARS!

I'M GUESSING HE'S BEEN COLLECTING BOOKS ALL OF HIS LIFE ...

THERE'S NO WAY. JUST NO WAY ....

NIBELUNGEN

THIS IS CRAZY ... I FEEL LIKE THAT KID IN THAT OLD VID, WHOSE UNCLE MADE HIM READ ALL THOSE BOOKS ....

RHEIN GOLD

ATTENTION ALL HANDS! CAPTAIN ON THE BRIDGE! ALL PERSONNEL REPORT TO THEIR ASSIGNED COMBAT STATIONS! ALL HANDS, BATTLE DRILL COMMENCING!

I REPEAT, MAN YOUR COMBAT STATIONS! ALL HANDS, BATTLE DRILL COMMENCING!

COMBAT STATIONS?!

TOCHIRO?!

I WONDER IF THERE'S SOMEWHERE I SHOULD GO ....

LIBRARY

I WAS COMING AROUND THE CORNER, AND THEN HE RAN INTO ME AND FELL DOWN! POOR TOCHIRO!!

I--UH ... AHH ...

I'M SORRY, MIIME. DIDN'T MEAN TO RUN INTO YOU LIKE THAT. IT'S JUST A FAINTING SPELL. HAD 'EM BEFORE. THAT'S ALL.

SHADDUP, KID. YOU'RE NOT HELPING. JUST GIVE ME A MINUTE OR TWO TO REST, THAT'S ALL.

FAINTING SPELL? MEN DON'T GET THOSE - UNLESS THEY'VE GOT SOMETHING WRONG WITH THEM ....

THANK YOU.

ALL RIGHT, YOU OLD LIAR. I WON'T SAY A WORD IF SHE DOESN'T.

I WILL NOT SPEAK, EITHER.

WHAT - DO I HAVE "STUPID" BRANDED ON MY FOREHEAD OR SOMETHING?! THERE'S NO WAY YOU COULD BE DONE THIS QUICKLY!!

BY THE WAY, I'M DONE WITH YOUR BOOKS.

WHO, ME? MOST CERTAINLY NOT!!

SO THAT'S MIIME .... DID YOU RUN INTO HER JUST TO LOOK UP HER DRESS?

WELL, YOU HAD ALL THESE COMPUTER AND ELECTRONIC PARTS SCATTERED ALL OVER THE PLACE, SO I DECIDED TO BUILD MYSELF SOME HELP.

MEET A.L.E.C., "AUTOMATED LIBRARY ELECTRONIC COMPUTER."

IT CAN SCAN ANY KIND OF DOCUMENT WITHOUT BREAKING THE SPINE OR TEARING PAGES, AND IT CAN ALSO STORE AND ORGANIZE FOR YOU.

WHA--? WHAT THE HELL IS THAT THING?!

YOU BETTER NOT BE WASTING MY TIME ... !!

IT'S NO WONDER ALBERICH SOUGHT OUT THE DAIBAS WHEN HE WANTED THE RING FORGED.

DAMN, BUT YOU'RE GOOD ... AS GOOD AS YATTARAN, I'D SAY.

I HOPE THIS OVERGROWN BANANA 9000 OF YOURS CAN COME UP WITH SOMETHING USEFUL.

WE'LL BE GETTING A READOUT ANYTIME.

POING!!

AND THERE YOU GO! EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE NIBELUNGEN IN ONE DATA WAFER.

THERE WERE A LOT OF DIFFERENT DATA SETS TO SORT THROUGH, INCLUDING A RATHER LARGE NUMBER OF EROTIC ONES ... BUT THE COLLATING IS ABOUT DONE, AND THE FINAL DATA SET SHOULD BE READY.

DAMN, KID ... YOU **ARE** GOOD!

I BELIEVE THIS IS WHAT YOU WANTED?

YOU KNOW ... SOMEWHERE WHERE NOT JUST ANYBODY CAN COME AND BUG YOU?

I'VE GOT THIS PRIVATE PLACE DEEP INSIDE THE SHIP ...

RIGHT NOW, LET'S CHILL OUT IN MY QUARTERS.

I'LL LOOK OVER IT LATER ...

I'LL TRUST YOU NOT TO TELL ANYONE WHERE IT IS ....

AH, HERE WE GO! HOME, SWEET HOME ... OR AS CLOSE AS IT GETS IN SPACE!

WOULD YOU HAVE WANTED ME TO COME INTO YOUR SHOP ON EARTH, AND COMPLETELY REBUILD THE PLACE WITHOUT YOUR LEAVE?!

FORGET IT! I LIKE THE LIVED-IN LOOK!! NOT ONE ROBOT OF YOURS IS TO LAY A FINGER ON THIS PLACE!!

SHEESH! YOU KNOW--

THIS ROOM STAYS JUST THE WAY IT IS. GOT IT?

YEAH, YEAH, I GOT IT.

DON'T MIND ME, THEN.

CUP

UHH, NO THANKS.

CARE FOR SOME REAL FOOD?

CUP

OH-KAY ....

CAN'T STAND THAT DAMN STINKY GALLEY, ANYWAY ....

SURE ....

AND YOU'RE NOT TO TELL ANYONE ABOUT MY PRIVATE FOOD STASH.

I SEE YOUR POINT.

I COULDN'T BEAT THOSE BUGGERS OFF WITH A STICK, IF THEY KNEW I HAD CUP RAMEN AND OTHER SUCH INSTANT GOODIES ON BOARD.

WHAT HAVE I GOTTEN MYSELF INTO?!

SLURP!

SLURP!



The Rhinegold

Ring 05 - Gateway to Valhalla



AW ....

TADASHI, IS IT? THE CAPTAIN WOULD LIKE TO SEE YOU ON THE BRIDGE. COME WITH ME, PLEASE.

KNOCK! KNOCK! KNOCK!

OH, NO! THIS IS NO PLACE FOR A LADY LIKE YOU! TAKE TADASHI AND GO! SHOO!! SCRAM!! BEAT IT!!!

WHAT A QUAINT LITTLE ROOM! PERHAPS I SHOULD COME HERE MORE OFTEN.

TADASHI, MIIME. MIIME, TADASHI.

YOUR HAND! IT FEELS SO ... !!

FOLLOW ME, PLEASE ....

... YOU ... THE SISTER OF ALBERICH ... LAST OF THE FREE NIBELUNGEN WOMEN ... THE SORCERESS OF LEGEND ... IT'S ALL TRUE ... !!

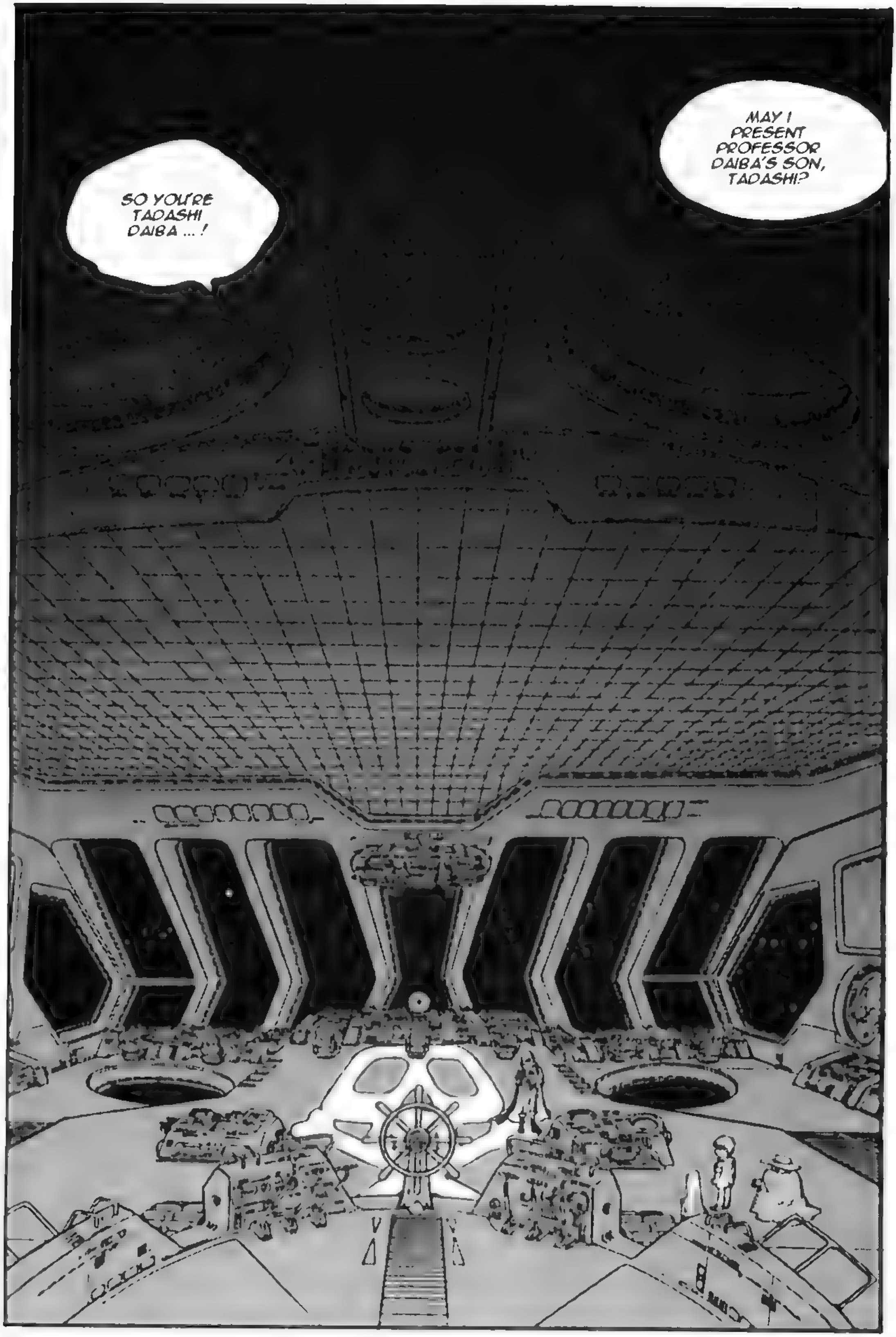
I ... I CAN SENSE YOU MIND ... YOUR MIND IN MINE ...

... YOU ... WHO HAVE LOVE ENOUGH TO GIVE ... AND YET THE HEART OF THE MORTAL YOU LOVE IS FOREVER GIVEN TO ANOTHER ....

... ??? ...

YOU ARE INDEED PERCEPTIVE, YOUNG TADASHI DAIBA. IT IS NOT OFTEN THAT ONE CAN MAKE A SIMPLE MIND TOUCH WORK BOTH WAYS. I WOULD ASK THAT YOU NOT SHARE WHAT YOU HAVE LEARNED ABOUT ME ... IT IS ... PERSONAL.

IS THAT YOU, MIIME? GOOD! BRING DAIBA'S BOY ON IN HERE. DON'T MAKE HIM WAIT OUTSIDE. I'M NOT ONE FOR FORMAL RITUALS, YOU KNOW.


SO YOU'RE TADASHI DAIBA ...!
MAY I PRESENT PROFESSOR DAIBA'S SON, TADASHI?

HMMM ... YOU'VE GOT THAT SAME LOOK IN YOUR EYE THAT HE DID.

UMMHH ... HELLO, SIR -- I MEAN, CAPTAIN. *GULP* WHY DIDN'T DAD EVER TELL ME ABOUT YOU?

WAIT ... YOU TWO WERE PLANNING ON BRINGING ME HERE?

UNFORTUNATELY, HE DIDN'T LIVE TO SEE IT, AND THEN ALL THIS STARTED TO HAPPEN ....

HE HAD HIS REASONS. HE WANTED TO WAIT FOR THE RIGHT TIME ...

... HE AND I SWORE THAT YOU WOULD SOMEDAY FIND YOUR WAY HERE ... THAT YOU WOULD BE GIVEN THE SAME CHANCE FOR A LIFE OF FREEDOM UPON THE SEA OF STARS THAT HE HAD ...

FROM THE DAY YOU WERE BORN, TADASHI ... FROM THE DAY YOUR FATHER LET ME HOLD YOU, RIGHT BEFORE WE SAID OUR GOODBYES ...

THANK YOU, SIR.

... AND NOW HERE YOU STAND IN FRONT OF ME, A CHILD NO LONGER, BUT A MAN ... A MAN MAKING HIS OWN WAY, AND ANSWERING FOR HIS OWN MISTAKES. WELCOME ABOARD, TADASHI.

DEPARTING THE SOL SYSTEM AS ORDERED, CAPTAIN!

GOOD. MAINTAIN THE SENSOR CLOAK UNTIL WE'RE WELL CLEAR OF THE OORT CLOUD MONITOR STATIONS. WE DON'T WANT THEM TAKING POTSHOTS AT US, DO WE?

ONCE WE'VE MADE IT BACK INTO DEEP SPACE, HAVE EVERYONE STAND DOWN AND TAKE IT EASY. SLEEP WHILE YOU CAN - REST, RELAX, OR WHATEVER. I'LL BE ON THE BRIDGE FOR A WHILE, IF YOU NEED ME. GOT IT?

DISCIPLINE ... ? THAT'S THE FIRST MISTAKE MANY A BROKEN SHIP CAPTAIN HAS MADE ....

BEGGING YOUR PARDON, CAPTAIN, BUT ISN'T THAT A BIT LAX? I THOUGHT STARSHIPS WERE ALL ABOUT SPIT AND POLISH, AND DISCIPLINE!

THIS IS A PIRATE SHIP, NOT A TERRESTRIAL FEDERATION SPACE BATTLESHIP. NEVER FORGET THAT. WE HANDLE ON-BOARD ROUTINE IN OUR OWN WAY ....

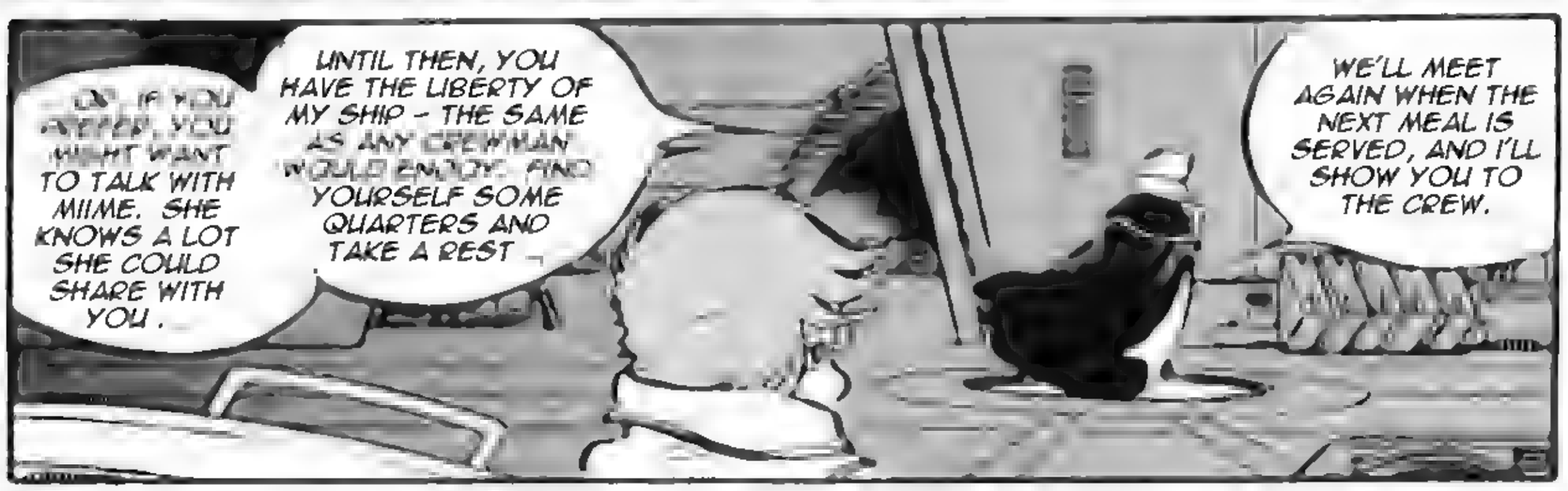
UP AND FLYING, HARLOCK!

HAS MY FLAG BEEN HOISTED?

THAT'S THE FLAG YOUR FATHER USED TO TELL YOU ABOUT, TADASHI. CAPTAIN HARLOCK ALWAYS FLIES HIS FLAG WHENEVER HE SAILS THE SEA OF STARS. HIS ENEMIES KNOW IT AND FEAR IT!

THE ONES WHO STILL LIVE, THAT IS. ANYONE WHO CHALLENGES FOR WHAT THAT FLAG STANDS USUALLY WIND UP DEAD ... !!




...OR, IF YOU PREFER, YOU MIGHT WANT TO TALK WITH MIIME. SHE KNOWS A LOT SHE COULD SHARE WITH YOU.
UNTIL THEN, YOU HAVE THE LIBERTY OF MY SHIP - THE SAME AS ANY CREWMAN WOULD ENJOY. FIND YOURSELF SOME QUARTERS AND TAKE A REST -
WE'LL MEET AGAIN WHEN THE NEXT MEAL IS SERVED, AND I'LL SHOW YOU TO THE CREW.

... BUT I'M NOT REALLY SLEEPY, AND SINCE IT LOOKS LIKE EVERYONE ELSE HAS GONE ... WELL ...

LOOK, I'M SORRY IF WE GOT OFF ON THE WRONG FOOT EARLIER DURING THAT MIND TOUCH, AND ALL THAT ...

YOU ARE FORGIVEN, YOUNG TADASHI ... BUT I SHOULD POINT OUT THAT, IN ALL FAIRNESS, YOU KNOW MORE ABOUT ME, THANKS TO YOUR RESEARCH, THAN ANYONE ELSE ON THIS SHIP. YOU DO NOT KNOW ALL, OF COURSE ... BUT YOU KNOW ENOUGH. LET US TALK ....

WELL, I COULD USE A GOOD SNOOZE MYSELF. SEE YA, KID!

UHH, YEAH. SEE YOU.

... IN EVERY TALE, EVERY LEGEND, EVERY VARIANT AND DERIVANT, YOUR NAME KEPT COMING UP OVER AND OVER.

... AND NO MATTER WHERE I LOOKED ...

WANNA KNOW SOMETHING? I WENT THROUGH THAT ENTIRE MOUNTAIN OF BOOKS TOCHIRO COLLECTED ...

MIIME ... SISTER OF ALBERICH ... CHIEF SORCERESS OF THE NIBELUNGEN ... THE ONLY ONE OF HER CLAN TO LEAVE NIBELHEIM ...

I USED TO NOT BELIEVE IN MYTHS AND LEGENDS ... AND THEN YOUR BROTHER TRIED TO KILL ME ...!

ALBERICH?! HAVE YOU SEEN HIM?!!

... THE MIIME OF LEGEND ... THE ONE WHO WITNESSED THE FALL OF HER PEOPLE AFTER THE DAWN OF TIME AND BEFORE MAN EVEN AROSE ... THAT MIIME ... AND HERE YOU ARE, STANDING BEFORE ME, OFFERING TO ANSWER WHATEVER QUESTIONS I WANT TO ASK ...

WITH THE RHINEGOLD?!!

OH, NO ....

HE WANTED ME TO FORGE A RING--

... AND SO, THE CYCLE BEGINS ANEW ...

... AND HE FORCED YOU TO FORGE THE RING ... ONLY THE SON OF PROFESSOR DAIBA WOULD BE ABLE TO DO SUCH A THING ... AND NOW ALBERICH WIELDS ABSOLUTE POWER IN THIS UNIVERSE ...

I ... I'M SORRY ... I'M SO SORRY ...

LUCKY FOR ME THAT TOCHRIO CAME ALONG WHEN HE DID, AND TURNED ON MY SHOP'S ANTI-INTRUDER SYSTEM. STOPPED THE BULLET JUST AS IT BROKE THE SKIN. IF YOUR BROTHER HAD BEEN USING A HAND LASER I'D BE DEAD!

ALL I GOT IN EXCHANGE WAS A BULLET IN MY BACK!

... ONCE, A LONG TIME AGO, BEFORE YOU WERE BORN, I WAS SAVED FROM CERTAIN DEATH BY A MAN NAMED DAIBA. THAT MAN WAS YOUR FATHER ...

... AND NOW MY BROTHER HAS COME ALONG, AND PERVERTED THAT SACRED MEMORY, AND FORCED THE SON OF THE MAN WHO SAVED ME TO FORGE THE RING OF THE NIBELUNGS! OH, ALBERICH!! WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?!!!

IS **NOTHING** SACRED TO YOU?! WOULD YOU TRAMPLE OVER ALL THAT IS FAIR, AND NOBLE, AND GOOD IN THIS UNIVERSE -- ALL FOR YOU MAD DESIRE TO AVENGE OUR PEOPLE AGAINST THE GODS?!?! OH, ALBERICH ... !!



... AND MIGHTY WOTAN, LORD OF VALHALLA AND KING OF THE GODS ... HE WHO MADE THIS UNIVERSE AND SET IT IN MOTION ... HE TOO IS NOW AWARE THAT THE RHINEGOLD HAS BEEN STOLEN ... AND THAT A NEW RING HAS BEEN FORGED ...

... AND NOW THE ANCIENT HOME OF THE GODS, VALHALLA, AWAKENS ... AND AGAIN BECOMES ACCESSIBLE FROM THIS UNIVERSE ...

THE MASTER RING OF TIME THAT CONTROLS ALL DESTINIES HAS MOVED THIS ONE, AND THE GREAT CYCLE THAT SPELLS THE DOOM OF THE GODS HAS BEGUN! WOTAN KNOWS THIS, AND EVEN NOW PREPARES HIS LAST STAND ... BUT CAN HE WITHSTAND THE RING THAT CAN UNDO ALL OF SPACE AND TIME ITSELF?!

"TIME HAS RESUMED IN VALHALLA?" WHAT'S THAT MEAN?

AND WHY DOES WOTAN FIGHT THIS? BECAUSE TIME HAS RESUMED IN VALHALLA ... A PLACE THAT IS SUPPOSED TO KNOW NO TIME!

... BUT ARE YOU TELLING ME THAT THEY SOMEHOW DEVISED A TEMPORAL LOCK ON VALHALLA? THAT THEY WERE ABLE TO STOP THE FLOW OF TIME IN THERE?!

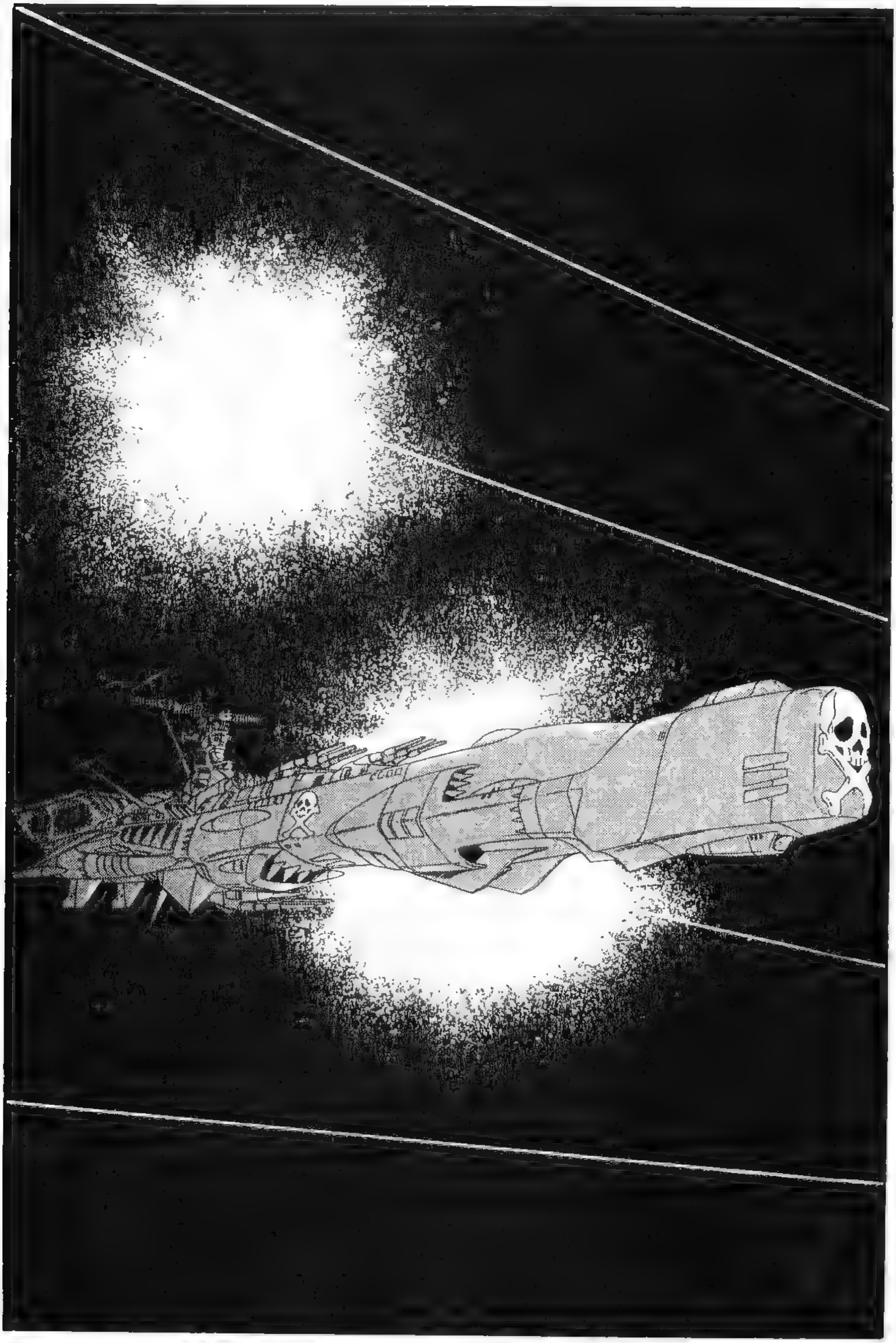
I READ IN THE VARIOUS LEGENDS OF THE RING ABOUT VALHALLA, AND HOW THE GODS SET IT UP AS A WORLD APART - WELL, IN THIS CASE, "UNIVERSE APART" WOULD BE MORE LIKE IT ...

AND NOW, BECAUSE OF ALBERICH, THAT TEMPORAL LOCK HAS BEEN BROKEN?! THE "GODS" ARE **GROWING OLD?!!**

YES ... THE GODS ARE--

WE'RE UNDER ATTACK!!

WHAT THE HELL?!



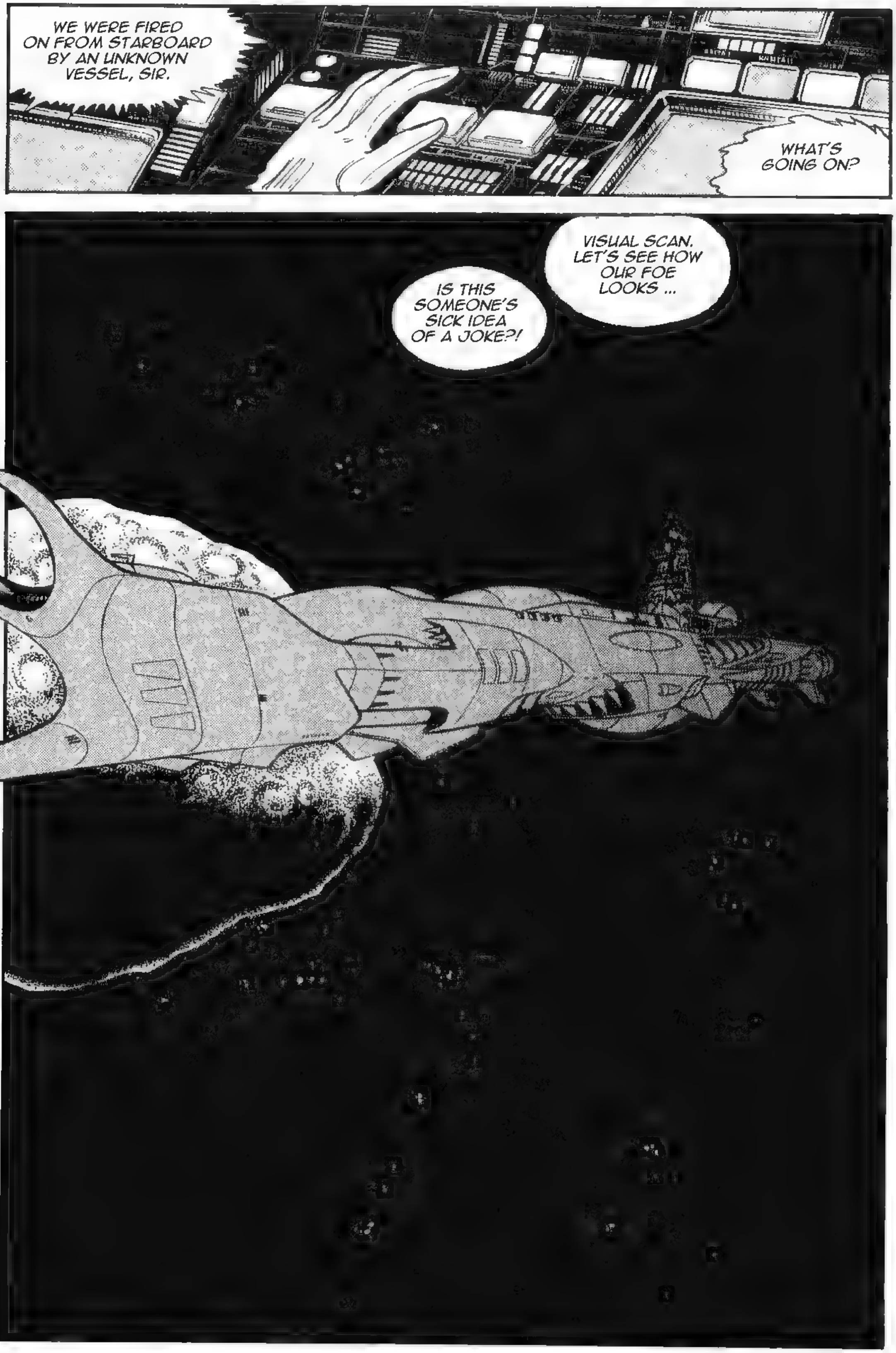
... AND ALL LIFE WITHIN WOULD CEASE.

... THIS UNIVERSE WILL MOST CERTAINLY COLLAPSE ... INFINITELY SHRINK INTO ITSELF UNTIL ONLY A SINGLE INFINITE POINT REMAINED ... THE EXACT REVERSE OF THE "BIG BANG," AS YOU MIGHT SAY.

IF ALBERICH SUCCEEDS IN HIS MAD PLAN ...

BUT WHAT ABOUT VALHALLA?

VALHALLA EXISTS OUTSIDE ALL POSSIBILITIES OF SPACE AND TIME. IT WOULD SURVIVE, AS WOULD ANY AND ALL WHO MADE IT WITHIN ... BUT THERE WOULD BE NOTHING LEFT FOR THE GODS TO RULE.


WE WERE FIRED ON FROM STARBOARD BY AN UNKNOWN VESSEL, SIR.
WHAT'S GOING ON?
IS THIS SOMEONE'S SICK IDEA OF A JOKE?!
VISUAL SCAN. LET'S SEE HOW OUR FOE LOOKS ...

WHO IS THIS FOOL WHO WOULD DARE TO CHALLENGE MY FLAG?!

IT'S NOT LIKE US TO REFUSE A GOOD FIGHT - EH, HARLOCK?

ONE GOOD FIGHT COMING RIGHT UP!!!

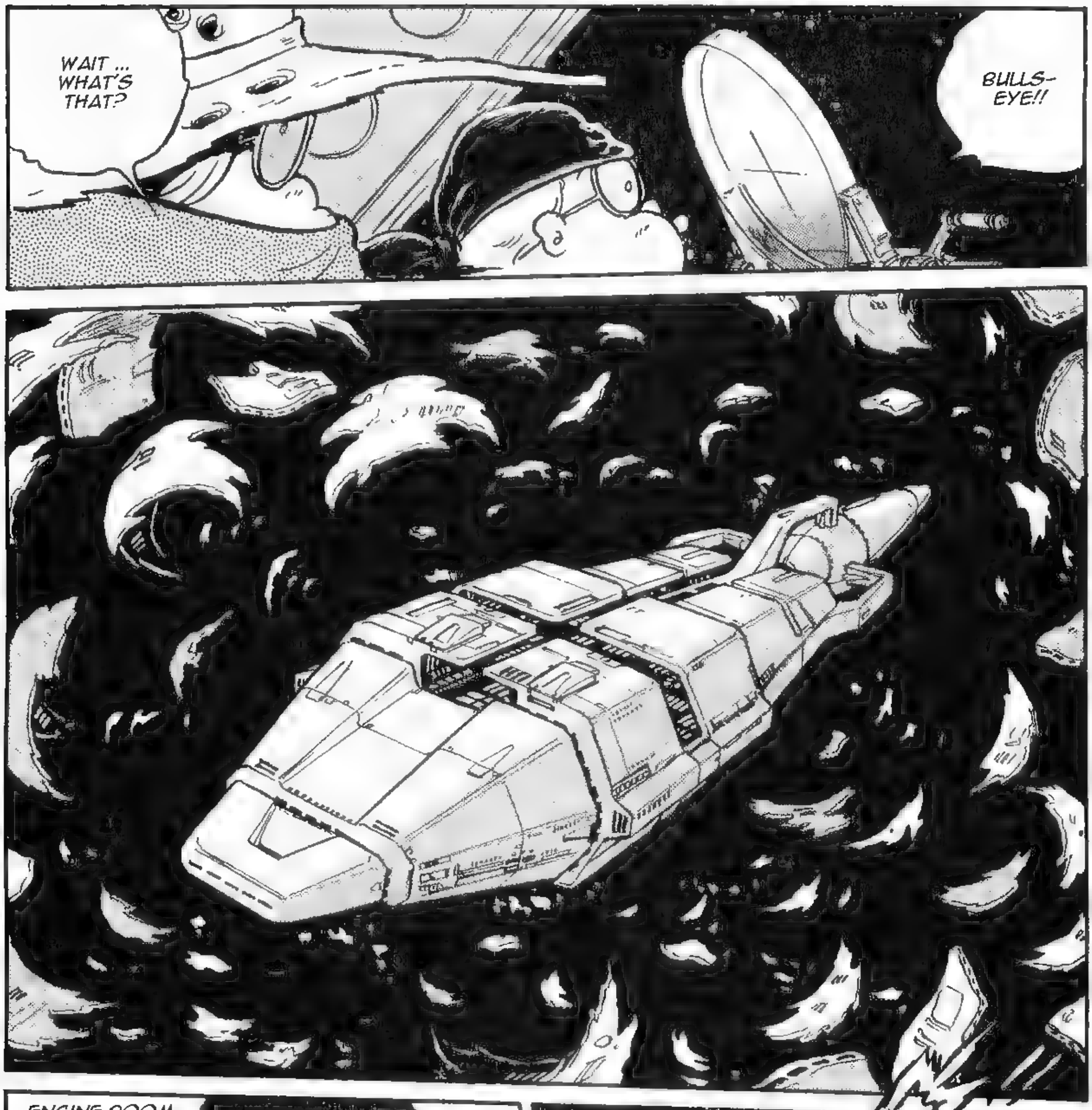


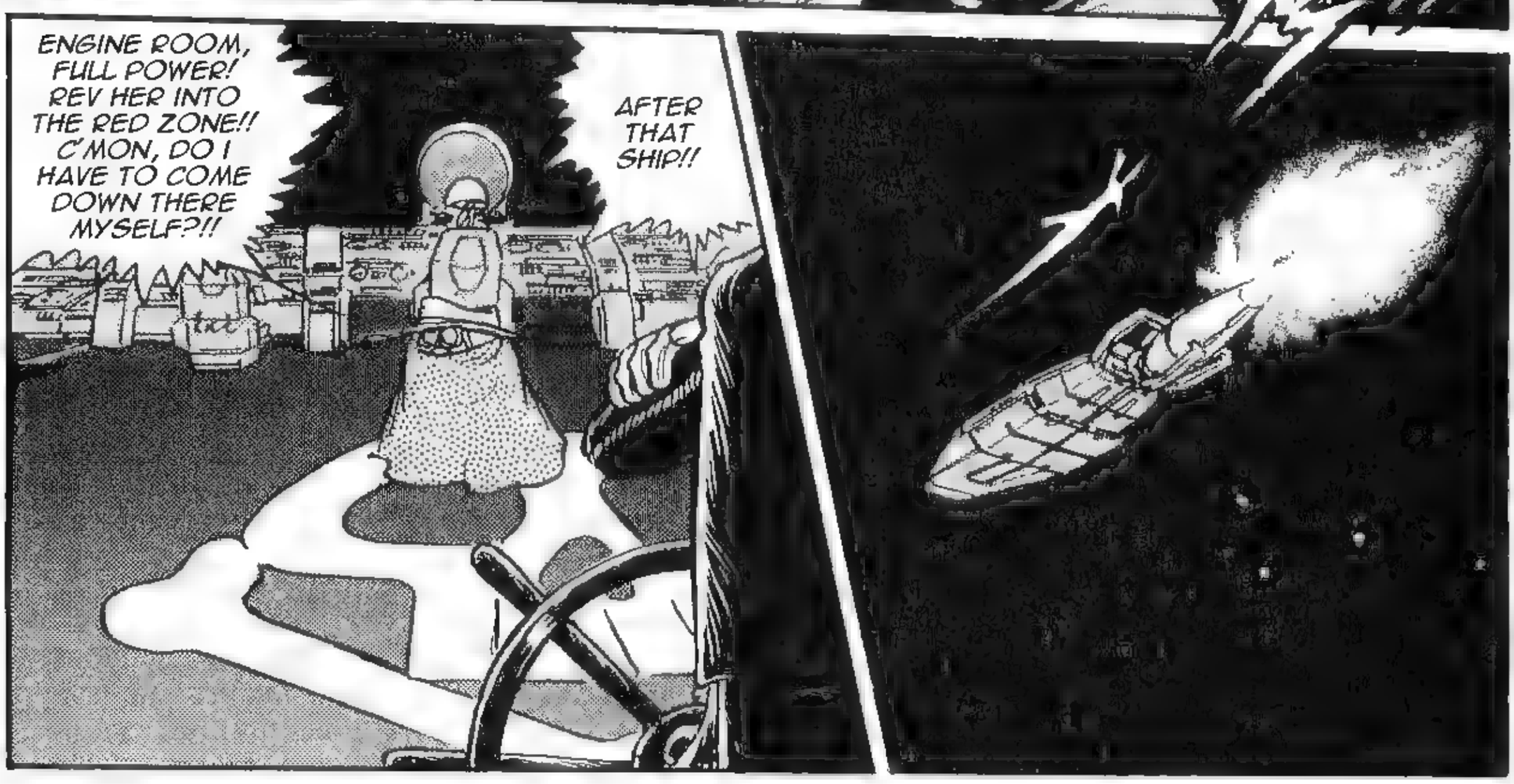
The Rhinegold

Ring 06 - Alberich

YOU DON'T HAVE TO HIT IT DEAD CENTER, YATTARAN! THESE PULSAR CANNONS IN THE MAIN GUN TURRENTS WILL POSITIVELY FRY ANYTHING WITHIN TEN SPACE KILOMETERS, AND THIS IDIOT IS WELL WITHIN THAT! UNDERSTAND?

CORRECTING ANGLE OF ELEVATION, 12 DEGREES!


WAIT ... WHAT'S THAT?
BULLS-EYE!!


ENGINE ROOM, FULL POWER! REV HER INTO THE RED ZONE!! C'MON, DO I HAVE TO COME DOWN THERE MYSELF?!!
AFTER THAT SHIP!!

WE'RE LOSING IT! C'MON!! MORE POWER!!!

TEN PIECES. NOT A BAD CATCH.

DID YOU MANAGE TO SCOOP UP ANY DEBRIS FROM THE OUTER SHELL?

IF IT STAYS THAT WAY.

WHAT INCREDIBLE ACCELLERATION! AT LEAST WE KNOW WHERE IT'S HEADING.

ME NEITHER. I CAN TELL YA THIS MUCH, THOUGH. IT'S WAY BEYOND ANYTHING HUMAN TECHNOLOGY COULD MAKE -- OR ANY ALIENS THAT I KNOW OF, EITHER.

HMMM ...

I'VE NOT SEEN ANYTHING LIKE THIS BEFORE. WHAT ABOUT YOU, TOCHIRO?

I WONDER IF THAT PATTERN OF BUMPS MEANS ANYTHING.

EVERYTHING IS FITTED WITH THE HIGHEST DEGREE OF PRECISION ... HIGHER THAN I EVER THOUGHT POSSIBLE!

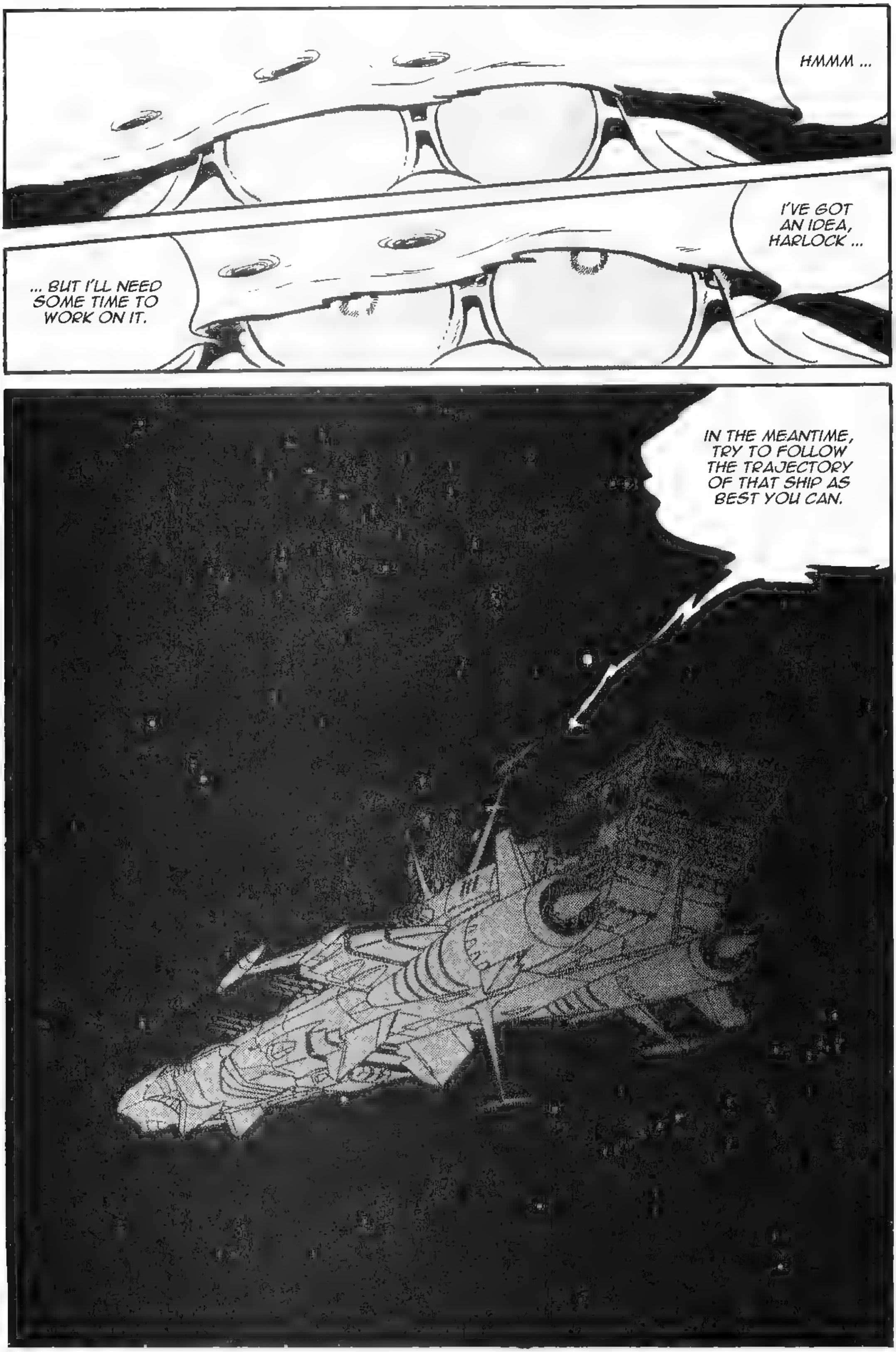
INTEGRATION OF STANDARD AND BIOTECH PARTS ON AN UNPRECEDENTED SCALE ... !!

YOU'VE GOT A SHARP EYE, CAPTAIN. I DIDN'T SEE THAT UNTIL THE NINTH PIECE.

HAVE YOU NOTICED THAT ALL OF THIS APPEARS TO BE BRAND NEW?

THAT'S A SCARY THOUGHT.

SOMEWHERE OUT THERE, SOMEBODY IS BUILDING A FIRST CLASS BATTLE FLEET BETTER THAN ANY THAT CURRENTLY EXISTS ... AND ALL OF IT WITH THIS TECHNOLOGY.


HMMM ...
I'VE GOT AN IDEA, HARLOCK ...
... BUT I'LL NEED SOME TIME TO WORK ON IT.
IN THE MEANTIME, TRY TO FOLLOW THE TRAJECTORY OF THAT SHIP AS BEST YOU CAN.

ALBERICH? YOU KNOW HIM?

HARLOCK ... THAT SHIP ... I KNOW WHO MADE IT. IT BELONGS TO ALBERICH.

IT'S NO GOOD. EVEN AT MAXIMUM POWER, WE CAN'T CATCH UP WITH IT ...

REDUCE SPEED.

HE'S HER BROTHER! THE SAME JERK WHO SHOT ME!!

YOU DIDN'T MENTION THIS BEFORE, MIIME.

FORGIVE ME, HARLOCK. I WAS SO ASHAMED OF MY BROTHER ...

... AND I MADE HIM PROMISE TO KEEP IT A SECRET.

TADASHI'S FATHER WAS THE ONLY ONE WHO KNEW ...

WELL I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THE REST OF YOU, BUT IT'S NO BIG DEAL TO ME! MIIME HAS SAVED OUR LIVES MORE TIMES THAN I CAN COUNT!

YATTARAN, KNOCK IT OFF.

MIIME ...

IF YOU NEED SOMEBODY TO DEFEND YOU, MIIME, YOU CAN COUNT ON ME! I'LL ALWAYS BE THERE FOR YOU!

NO. THERE IS NO SHIP MADE BY MORTALS THAT CAN CATCH HIM.

BE HONEST WITH US, MIIME. IS THERE ANY CHANCE WE CAN CATCH UP WITH YOUR BROTHER?

THAT'S RIGHT!

BUT SHE'S ON OUR SIDE! EVEN THE ANCIENT LEGENDS I'VE RESEARCHED SAY MIIME ALWAYS WORKS FOR GOOD!

TADASHI KNOWS THIS BETTER THAN ANYONE. HE KNOWS THE ANCIENT TALES ABOUT MY PEOPLE.

IS THAT SO?

DO WE KEEP CHASING A WILL-O'-THE-WISP, OR DO WE TRY SOMETHING ELSE?

TADASHI, YOU'VE STUDIED THE ANCIENT TEXTS. WHAT DO YOU THINK SHOULD BE OUR NEXT MOVE?

"ANCIENT STORIES," HE SAYS.

HMMM ...

I MEAN, I MAY KNOW THE ANCIENT STORIES BETTER THAN ANYONE HERE SAVE MIIME, BUT STORIES ARE ONE THING. REALITY IS SOMETHING ELSE.

I DON'T HAVE A CLUE, GUYS.

WHEN IS HE GOING TO FIGURE OUT THAT THOSE "ANCIENT STORIES" ARE FAST BECOMING REALITY?

GET ME A FIX! . . .

OUR TARGET'S DEACCELLERATING, SIR! WE'RE CLOSING!

I'VE GOT AN UNCHARTED PLANET ON THE SCOPE!

WHAT A BARREN AND LIFELESS LITTLE ROCK!

NOTICE THE COLOR? IT'S ... WELL ... KINDA SINISTER IN A WAY ....


BUT WHY THIS PARTICULAR PLANET, WAY OUT HERE IN THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE?
EVERYBODY STAY ALERT. THIS IS PROBABLY A TRAP.


HE WANTED YOU TO COME HERE. HE WANTS TO SHOW YOU SOMETHING ...
WHAT IS IT, MIIME?
A SPACESHIP.
A SPACESHIP?

SENSORS ARE PICKING UP AN ENORMOUS CONTACT ON THE SURFACE! NO ... ITS DEEP BELOW THE SURFACE -- DOWN ABOUT 100 MILES OR SO! AND IT'S OLD, CAPTAIN! IT'S VERY OLD!!

CAPTAIN!

CAN YOU TELL HOW OLD IT IS?

OFF MY SCALE, SIR ....

ANOTHER MYSTERY, WRAPPED UP IN AN ENIGMA ... FIRST, BRAND NEW ALIEN STARSHIPS WELL IN ADVANCE OF OUR OWN ... SECOND, THIS! AN OLD ALIEN STARSHIP, OLDER THAN ANYTHING THE SHIP'S COMPUTER CAN DETERMINE ....

THERE'S NO SIGN OF ANY LIFE ... NO ENERGY ANYWHERE, EXCEPT FOR OUR SHIP AND ALBERICH'S. I THINK WE'LL RISK A LANDING.

I WANT TO SEE WHAT'S DOWN THERE, AND THAT PROBE SHIP YOU GOT FROM THE SPACE PATROL IS PERFECT FOR THE JOB. CARE TO GO DOWN, TOCHIRO?

ALREADY ON MY WAY ... BUT IF I'M KILLED, WILL YOU AT LEAST TRY TO COLLECT MY BONES?

YOU'LL ALSO FIND ALBERICH'S SHIP THERE. HE SEEMS TO HAVE LEFT IT.

MAINTAIN YOUR CURRENT COURSE AND SPEED, AND YOU'LL BE AT THE ARTIFACT IN NO TIME.

WELL ... I'VE SEEN BETTER MOON-SCAPES IN MY DAY ....

WAIT ... I'VE GOT A STRANGE READING!!

THAT'S ODD ... EVERYTHING'S POWERED DOWN, EVEN THE MAIN DRIVE! NOW WHY WOULD HE DO THAT?

A-HA! THERE YOU ARE, YOU SNEAKY LITTLE BUGGER! THIS IS WHAT WAS INSIDE THAT OTHER SHIP WE BLEW UP!

THERE'S A DEEP CRATER NEXT TO THE SHIP - AND I MEAN **DEEP**! MY SCANNERS CAN'T FIND THE BOTTOM!

I MUST HAVE BEEN A FOX OR BADGER IN A PREVIOUS LIFE. EVERY TIME I SEE A HOLE, I WANT TO SEE WHAT'S AT THE BOTTOM!

HERE I GO!

I'M DIVING INTO THE CRATER. RECEPTION'S GOING TO GET BAD THE DEEPER I GET ...

LET'S SEE WHERE THIS GOES!

ARE YOU THERE, TOCHIRO? RESPOND, PLEASE ....

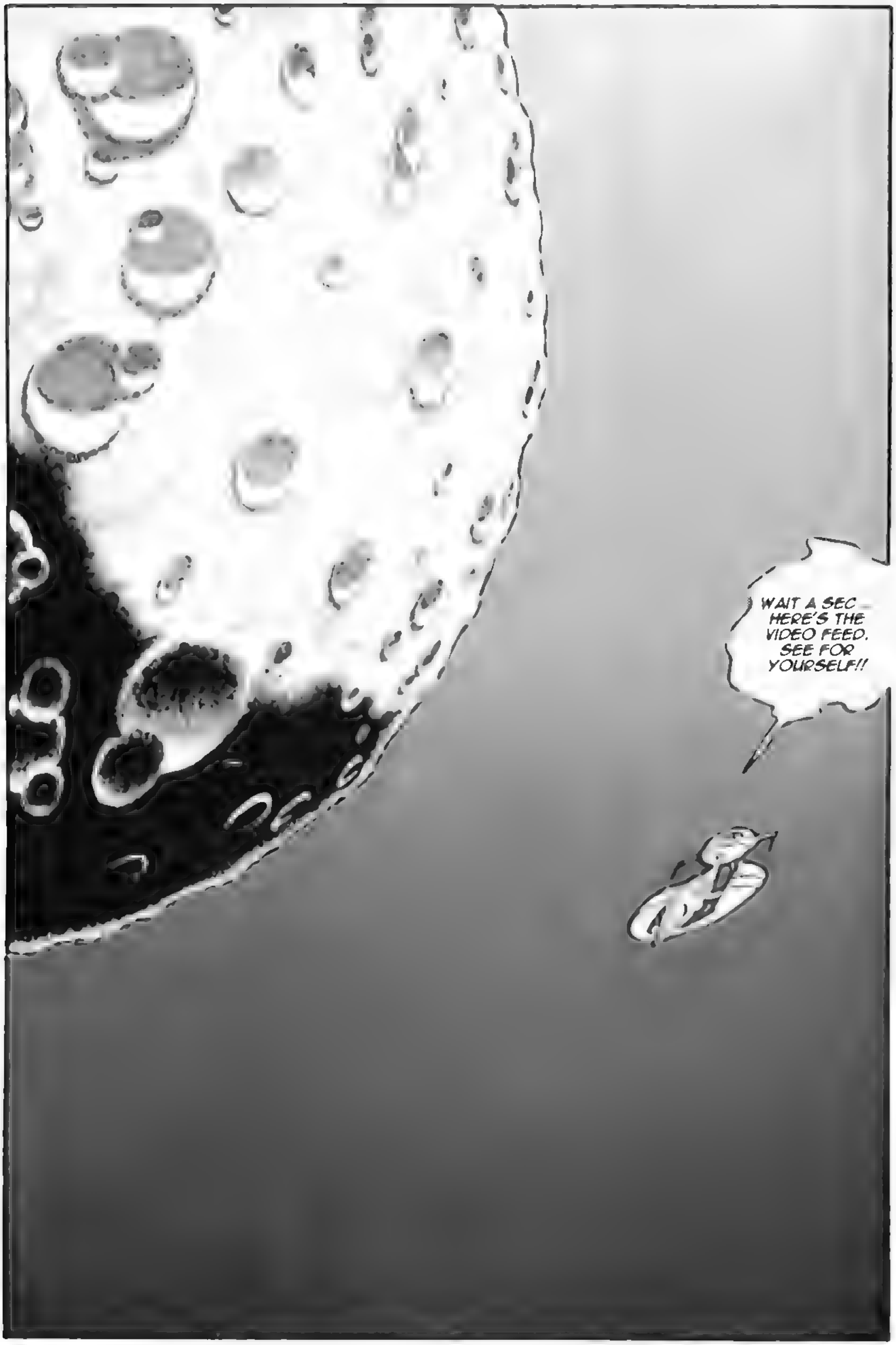
WOW ... !!

THERE YOU ARE ... WHAT ARE YOU GUSHING ABOUT?

THIS IS AMAZING! SIMPLY AMAZING!!

THIS IS INCREDIBLE! NO, IT'S BIZZARE!! THERE'S **ANOTHER** PLANET INSIDE THIS ONE!!!

THAT CAN'T BE RIGHT. HOW MANY TIMES HAVE I TOLD YOU TO GET THOSE GLASSES FIXED?


WAIT A SEC - HERE'S THE VIDEO FEED. SEE FOR YOURSELF!!

THIS DOUBLE PLANET WAS ONCE A SHIP ... A SHIP THAT BELONGS TO WOTAN ...

DO YOU FIND THAT SO HARD TO BELIEVE, TADASHI? YOU WHO KNOW THE LEGENDS AND THE OLD GERMANIC TALES OF THE GODS BETTER THAN ANYONE?

WAIT A MINUTE. ARE YOU SAYING THE ENTIRE PLANET IS A SPACESHIP?

... AND TO AID IN THEIR ENDEAVORS, THEY HAD HELP. WE, THE PEOPLE OF THE NIBELUNGEN, SERVED AS THEIR ARTISANS. THE OTHER WERE THE GIANTS OF RISENHEIM, WHO WERE THEIR ARTIFICERS ... AND WHO BUILT THEIR SHIPS FOR THEM ...

THE GODS ACCOMPLISHED MUCH IN THE EARLY DAYS OF THIS UNIVERSE ...

OH, I KNOW ALL TOO WELL ...

BUT HOW DO YOU KNOW THIS IS ONE OF WOTAN'S SHIPS?

WOTAN COULD HAVE EASILY DESTROYED US. HE COULD HAVE CALLED HIS SHIP BACK HAD HE SO CHOSEN. BUT A HEADLESS SNAKE IS NO THREAT, AND WE HAD LEFT VALHALLA. HE EXILED OUR PEOPLE TO THIS UNIVERSE AS WELL, AND THAT WAS THAT ....

LONG, LONG AGO ... ABOUT 650 AEONS OF THE WAY THAT HUMANS MEASURE TIME ... MY BROTHER ALBERICH AND I LED A REVOLT OF MY PEOPLE AGAINST THE GODS OF VALHALLA. HE SAW WOTAN, THEIR LORD, AS A DICTATOR WHO WOULD USE BOTH OUR PEOPLE AND THE GIANTS TO SUIT HIS OWN PURPOSES. THE REVOLT FAILED, AND WE STOLE A SHIP AND FLED ... THE SHIP THAT YOU SEE BELOW.

THE GODS OF VALHALLA ... THE NIBELUNGS ... THE GIANTS OF RISENHEIM ... THE FAILED REVOLT AND BANISHMENT ...

ALL OF IT!!

BUT THAT'S ALMOST THE SAME STORY TOLD IN THE OLD MYTHS OF GERMANY AND SCANDANAVIA!

SO IT IS TRUE ... ALL OF IT!

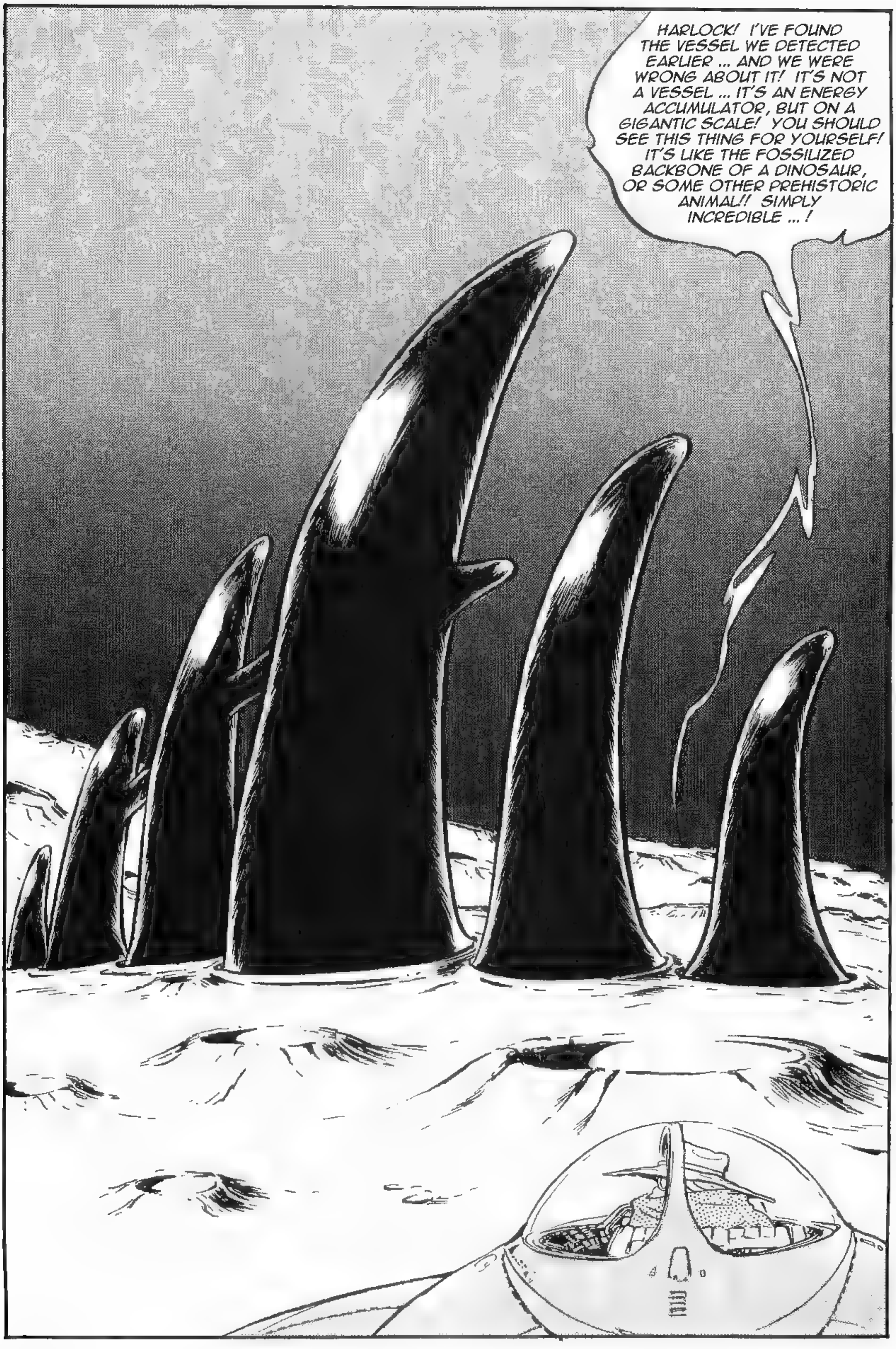


WAIT ... 650 AEONS ... 650 MILLION YEARS!!

... AND RATHER THAN SEEK YOU OUT AND DESTROY YOU, AS HE VERY WELL COULD, HE LET YOU ESCAPE, AND THEN EXILED THE REST OF YOUR PEOPLE TO OUR UNIVERSE ... WHERE YOU HAVE BEEN EVER SINCE ....

SO, 650 MILLION YEARS AGO, ALBERICH LED A FAILED REVOLT AGAINST THE GODS OF VALHALLA WITH YOUR HELP. THE BOTH OF YOU FLED VALHALLA IN THE SPACESHIP BELOW AND CAME TO OUR UNIVERSE ...

HARLOCK! I'VE FOUND THE VESSEL WE DETECTED EARLIER ... AND WE WERE WRONG ABOUT IT! IT'S NOT A VESSEL ... IT'S AN ENERGY ACCUMULATOR, BUT ON A GIGANTIC SCALE! YOU SHOULD SEE THIS THING FOR YOURSELF! IT'S LIKE THE FOSSILIZED BACKBONE OF A DINOSAUR, OR SOME OTHER PREHISTORIC ANIMAL!! SIMPLY INCREDIBLE ... !



... I'D SAY AT LEAST 600 MILLION YEARS, IF NOT MORE!

... BUT THE AGE OF THIS THING GOES BEYOND THESE INSTRUMENTS! BUT IF I HAD TO MAKE AN EDUCATED GUESS ...

I'M TRYING TO FIGURE THAT OUT NOW ...

TOCHRIO? HOW OLD IS IT?

WHAT'S WRONG, TOCHIRO? IS SOMETHING GOING ON DOWN THERE?!

HARLOCK ...

... BUT THIS THING IS STILL ACTIVE!

HARLOCK, I DON'T THINK YOU'RE GOING TO BELIEVE THIS ...

I DON'T HAVE ANY CHOICE, TOCHIRO. I HAVE TO BELIEVE IT. WE'VE HAD ONE IMPOSSIBLE THING HAPPEN AFTER ANOTHER SINCE THIS STARTED ...

A 650 MILLION YEAR OLD SPACESHIP ... AND IT'S **STILL** FUNCTIONAL?!

MIIME ... MIIME I ... I'M HAVING A HARD TIME WRAPPING MY HEAD AROUND ALL OF THIS. THAT SPACESHIP BELOW ... AND YOU! ARE YOU TRYING TO TELL ME THAT YOU ARE 650 MILLION YEARS OLD!?

I WAS BORN IN VALHALLA AT THE BEGINNING OF TIME, YOUNG TADASHI. 650 MILLION YEARS MEANS NOTHING TO ME ... NOR DOES IT TO THE GODS. IT WAS ONE MISTAKE OF MANY ... TO GRANT ETERNITY TO THEIR FIRST CHILDREN ...

... WE WERE THE ONES WHO WATCHED OVER YOUR WAYS FROM AFAR.

... AND AS FOR HUMANS, WHO ARE THE YOUNGEST OF THE YOUNGER RACES WITH WHOM WE SEEDED THE UNIVERSE IN THOSE EARLY DAYS ...

... ARE YOU SAYING THAT YOUR PEOPLE HELPED HUMANS TO EVOLVE?!

HOLD ON! ARE YOU ...

... AND ONCE YOUR PEOPLE HAD GROWN ENOUGH, WE CAME AMONG YOU AND TAUGHT YOU ...

THIS UNIVERSE CAN BE A LONELY PLACE WHEN YOURS ARE THE ONLY INTELLIGENT PEOPLE IN IT ... BUT WE HAD ALREADY SEEDED THE NINE LESSER RACES LONG BEFORE ON THE ORDERS OF WOTAN ... ALL WE HAD TO DO WAS TO WORK, AND WAIT ...

... ONLY A FEW OF US ESCAPED, AND WE WERE NO LONGER PERMITTED TO WALK AMONG YOU ...

I STILL REMEMBER THE DAY WHEN WOTAN FOUND OUR COLONY ON THE FIFTH PLANET OF YOUR SOLAR SYSTEM, AND DESTROYED IT OUT OF AN ACT OF SPITE ...

... BUT NOW TIME HAS RESUMED AGAIN IN VALHALLA, AND WOTAN WILL BE ANGRY! THE THEFT OF THE RHINEGOLD AND THE FORGING OF THE RING HAVE AWAKENED THE GODS ...

HOW CAN I HOPE TO MAKE YOU SEE THE VAST DIFFERENCE IN SCALE BETWEEN YOUR KINDS? YOU ARE TO WOTAN AS A GNAT TO THE LARGEST DINOSAUR THAT EVER WALKED YOUR EARTH!!

... AND WOTAN WILL BE ANGRY. HE WILL SEE THAT HE HAS AGED, AND THAT VALHALLA IS AGING, AND HE WILL STRIKE OUT AGAINST THOSE WHO DARED TO DISTURB HIM! YOU CANNOT FIGHT THE GODS! MY PEOPLE TRIED, AND FAILED!!

A GNAT?!

I'M SORRY, TADASHI. I DIDN'T MEAN TO INSULT YOU ...

YOU DARE TO CALL US GNATS, AFTER ALL WE'VE DONE?!

I, FOR ONE, HAVE NEVER DISPARAGED HUMANITY. YOU ARE SO LIKE US WHEN WE WERE YOUNG ... AND THERE WAS HARLOCK, AND YOUR FATHER ....

... BUT YOU HAVE TO UNDERSTAND THE TRUE SCALE OF THE STAGE UPON WHICH HUMANS MUST NOW WALK ... THANKS TO ALBERICH AND THE RING ...

MY FATHER ...

I'M SORRY, MIIME ....

... NO !!

HOLY SHIT ...

WOTAN!! WOTAN HAS AWAKENED!!

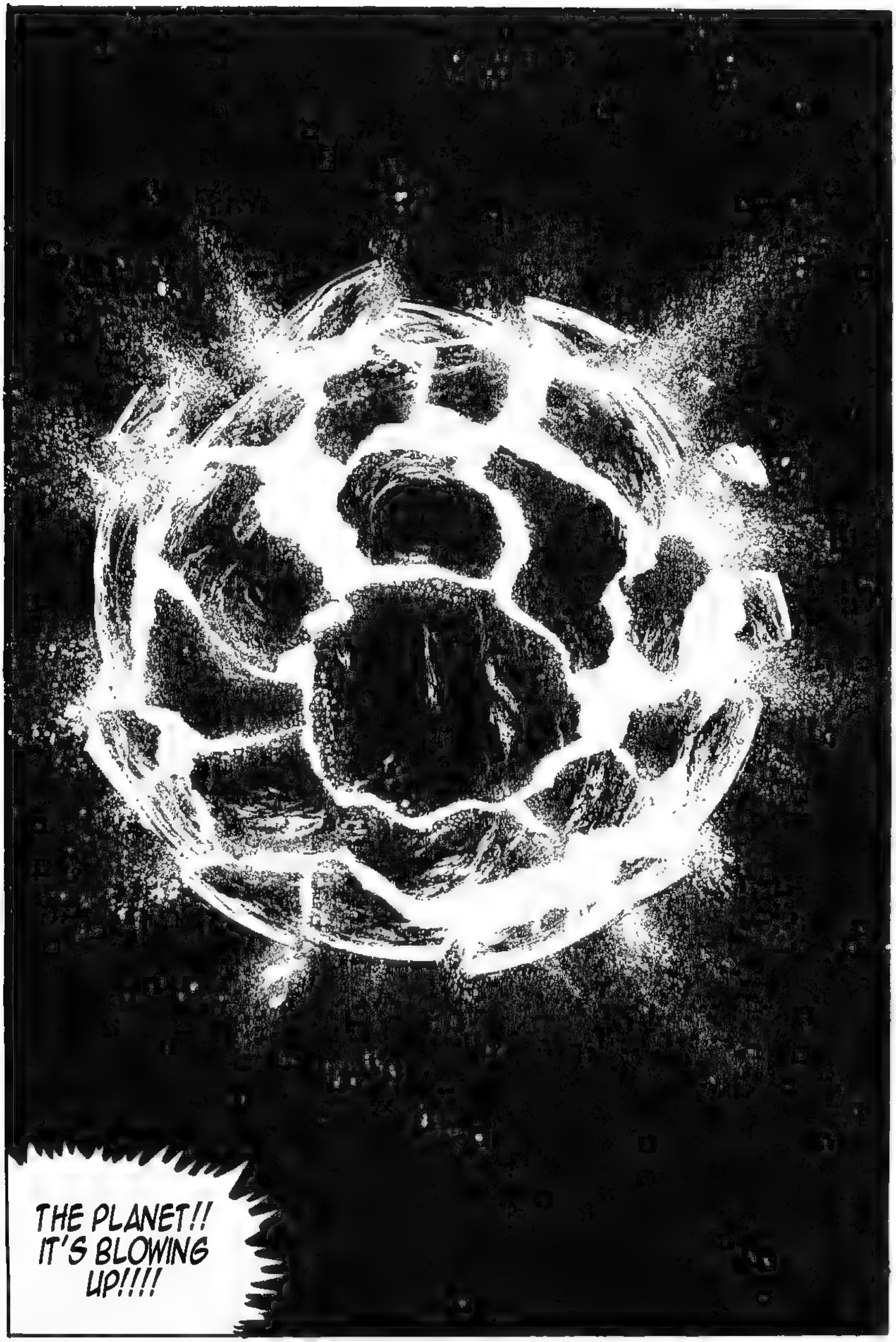
CAPTAIN! SOMETHING'S HAPPENING ON THE PLANET BELOW!! I JUST REGISTERED A MASSIVE SURGE OF ENERGY!!

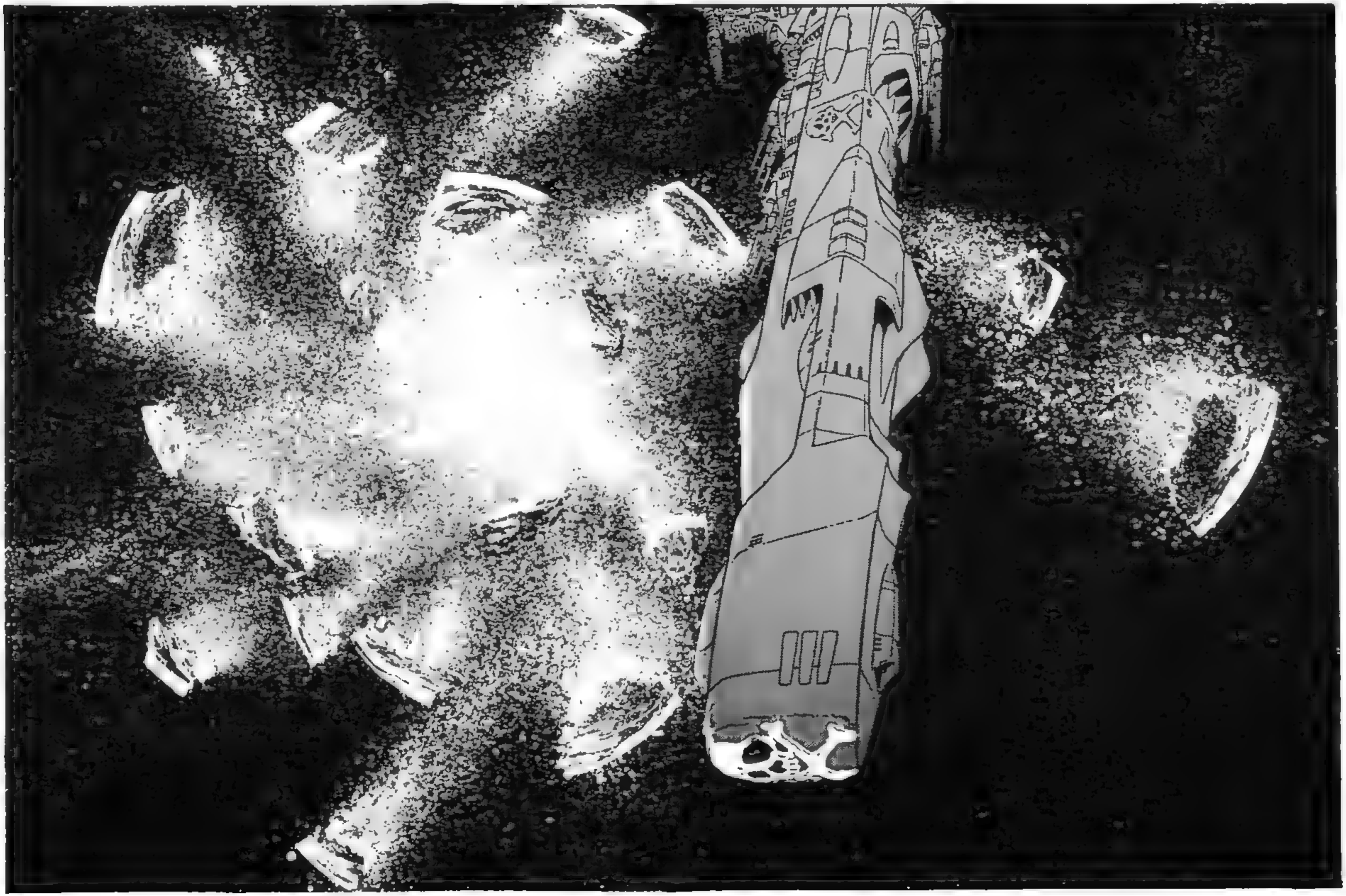
IT'S THOSE COLLECTORS, SIR! THEY'RE BUILDING UP ENERGY FROM SOMEWHERE!! THE PLANET'S BECOMING UNSTABLE!!

C'MON, BABY, GIMME EVERYTHING YOU GOT!!

YOU DON'T HAVE TO TELL ME TWICE!!

TOCHIRO!! GET THE HELL OUT OF THERE!! **NOW!!!**


THE PLANET!! IT'S BLOWING UP!!!!



AII-
YII-
YII... !!

WHAT THE HELL HAPPENED?!

I THOUGHT I WAS A GONER FOR SURE! MAN, OH MAN ... !!

THE GODS ...

... THE GODS HAVE AWAKENED.



The Rhinegold

Ring 07 - Wotan, King of the Gods

FRICKA ... THE SOUND OF THE COSMIC ORGAN HAS CHANGED SOMEHOW ... AS IF IT WERE NO LONGER IN TUNE ... IT SOUNDS DISSONANT, MELANCHOLY ... I DON'T LIKE IT!

I'VE NOTICED IT TOO, WOTAN ... AND I THINK I KNOW WHY ... IT PLAYS ALONE ... THE OTHER COSMIC ORGAN ON THE PLANET RHINE IS NO LONGER PLAYING ...

IF ONE OF THE ORGANS STOPS PLAYING, THEN TIME HAS COME TO VALHALLA! WE ARE NO LONGER ETERNALLY YOUNG! WE ARE GROWING OLD, WOTAN!!

WHAT COULD HAVE STOPPED THE PLAYING OF THE COSMIC ORGAN ON THE PLANET RHINE? WHO WANTED TO RESUME THE FLOW OF TIME IN VALHALLA?

SOMEBODY DARES TO DISTURB THE PEACEFUL SLUMBER OF THE GODS ... SOMEBODY HAS STOPPED THE COSMIC ORGAN ON THE PLANET RHINE ... AND SOMEBODY MUST PAY FOR THEIR ARROGANCE!!

YOU WILL DEAL WITH HIM ... WON'T YOU, WOTAN? ... AND TIME WILL ONCE AGAIN HAVE NO PLACE HERE.

THIS MUST BE MORE OF THAT FOOL ALBERICH'S DOING! ONCE AGAIN, AS BEFORE, HE DARES TO CHALLENGE THE GODS!! DOES HE REALLY THINK THAT HE CAN SUCCEED?!

... AND YET DESPITE ALL HER SORROWS, SHE STRUGGLES TO KEEP THE COSMIC ORGAN PLAYING ... SO ADMIRABLE!!

SHE ALSO SORROWS FOR ANOTHER ... HAVE YOU NOT NOTICED IT. FRICKA?

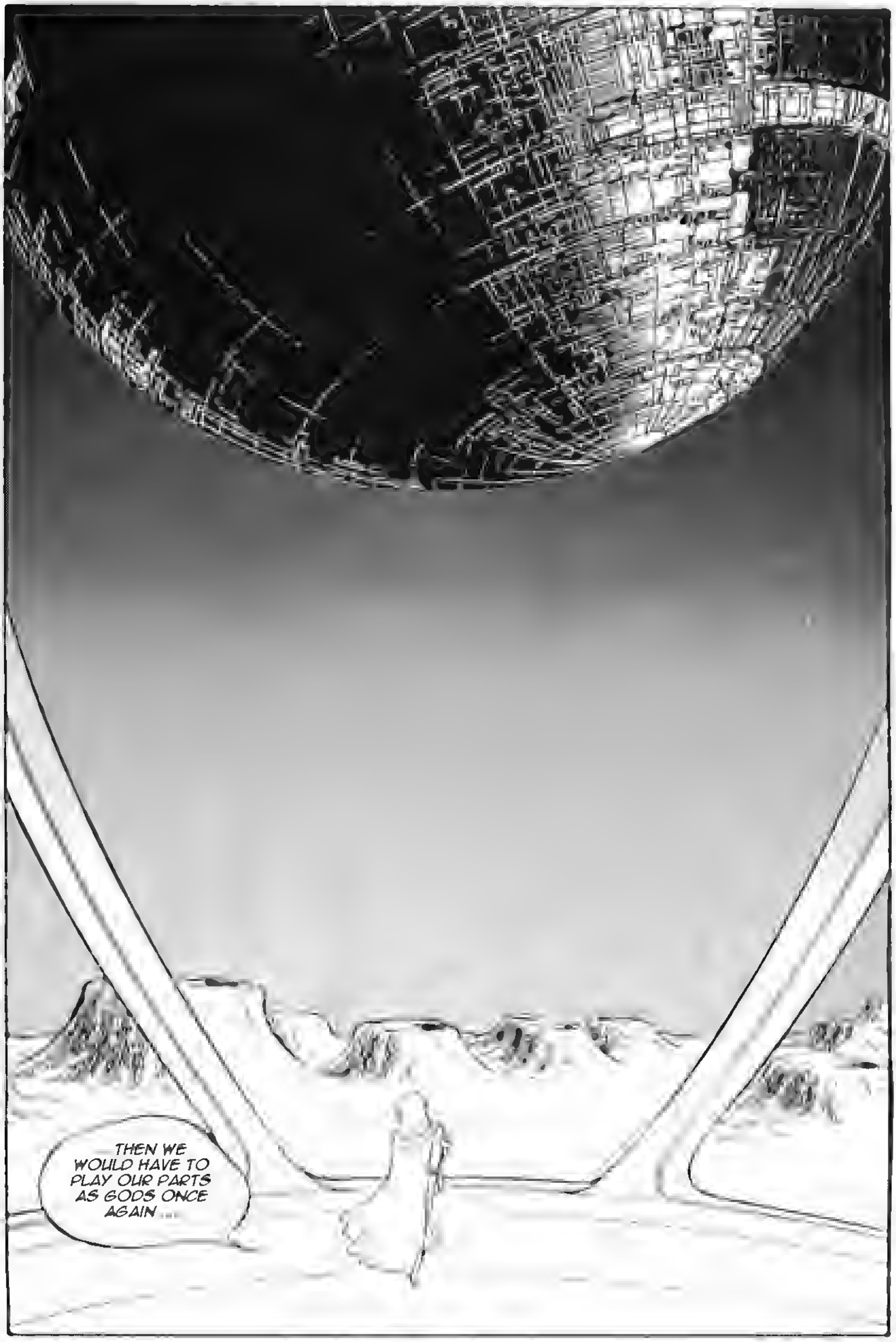
SHE HAS NEVER STOPPED MOURNING FOR HER PEOPLE, WHO ARE NOW TRAPPED BEYOND VALHALLA AND SUBJECT TO THE WHIMS OF THE RINGS OF TIME ... HER HEART IS TORN WITH HER LOVE TO JOIN WITH THEM AGAIN, AND HER DUTY TO PLAY THE COSMIC ORGAN ...

IS NOT FREYA BEAUTIFUL, EVEN IN HER SADNESS?

YET SHE CANNOT BY HERSELF STOP TIME FROM RETURNING TO VALHALLA ... NOR CAN SHE STOP THE EVENTS THAT THE DEEDS OF HER BROTHER HAVE TRIGGERED ....

I FEEL FOR THE POOR GIRL, FRICKA. ALWAYS PLAYING THAT ORGAN ... KNOWING THAT IF SHE WERE TO STOP, THEN VALHALLA WOULD BE AS SUBJECT TO TIME AS ANY PLACE ELSE IN THE RINGS OF TIME ...

VALHALLA LIES AT THE CENTER OF THE MASTER RING OF TIME, YET IS NOT BOUND TO IT. IF THAT WERE EVER TO HAPPEN ... !!


THEN WE WOULD HAVE TO PLAY OUR PARTS AS GODS ONCE AGAIN ...

I WILL NOT BOW DOWN BEFORE ABERICH – HE WHO WOULD DARE TO USURP MY THRONE! AND EVEN IF HE HAS REFORGED THE RING, WELL ... I REMEMBER THE FIRST TIME THE RING WAS USED, AND I KNOW HOW TO DEAL WITH ITS POWER ... !!

IS IT NOT IMPRESSIVE, FRICKA MY LOVE? THE GIANTS OF RISENHEIM HAVE ALWAYS BEEN SKILLED WITH SUCH THINGS ... BUT THIS! THIS IMPREGNABLE FORTRESS, WHICH EVEN THE POWER OF THE RING CANNOT PIERCE ....

... AND YET ... AND YET THE FORTRESS REMAINS INCOMPLETE. IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN FINISHED LONG AGO, LORD. WHY DO THE GIANTS DELAY?!

TRULY ... THE SKILL AND MIGHT OF THE ARTIFICIERS OF RISENHEIM HAS NO EQUAL IN ANY UNIVERSE, MY LORD WOTAN ...

WHY MUST YOU ALWAYS POP IN AND OUT WHENEVER YOU FEEL, LIKE A SHADOW DANCING ACROSS THE FLOOR?

OH ... !! ERDA!! DON'T SNEAK UP ON US LIKE THAT!

MY LORD WOTAN!

HAVE YOU LOOKED IN THE MIRROR LATELY?! HAVE YOU SEEN THE WRINKLES AT THE CORNERS OF YOUR EYES?! THE AGE SPOTS ON THE BACK OF YOUR HANDS?!!

YOU'RE PART OF THIS TOO, ERDA! THE COMING OF TIME TO VALHALLA HAS AFFECTED YOU, TOO!!

AND WHY NOT?! IT WAS MIIME WHO WAS IN CHARGE OF THE OTHER ORGAN! IT HAS STOPPED PLAYING! TIME HAS COME TO VALHALLA ITSELF!! AND THERE'S THIS REBELLION OF HER FOUL BROTHER'S, TOO! HAVING MIIME IN VALHALLA COULD SOLVE MANY OF OUR CURRENT PROBLEMS!!

MY APPOINTED PLACE IS AS THE DOOMSAYER OF THE GODS, WHICH EVEN YOU, WOTAN, MUST HEED - AND I SAY THIS: DO NOT BRING MIIME BACK TO VALHALLA!!

I KNOW THAT THE COSMIC ORGAN ON THE PLANET RHINE HAS BEEN DESTROYED. YES, DESTROYED BY THAT MADMAN ALBERICH ...

IT IS MY DOOM TO KNOW ALL, FRICKA ...

... AND NOW A DISSONANCE HAS CREPT INTO THE RINGS OF TIME, AND THE MASTER RING NOW BEGINS TO TURN AT A DIFFERENT RATE, AND A NEW PITCH IS THUS INTRODUCED INTO EVENTS IN ALL TIMES AND PLACES ... YES, EVEN VALHALLA ITSELF IS NOW SUBJECT TO TIME, THANKS TO THE REFORGING OF THE RING!

AND THUS MY PROPHECIES OF OLD ARE FULFILLED, AND THE DOOM OF VALHALLA DRAWS NIGH! THE RING HAS BEEN REFORGED, AND ITS VIBRATIONS HAVE SHAKEN THE VERY FOUNDATIONS OF TIME AND SPACE ITSELF!! NOT EVEN THE COSMIC ORGAN OF FREIA CAN STOP IT!! HEED MY WARNING, WOTAN, AND DO NOT BRING MIIME BACK TO VALHALLA!!!

HAD YOU BUT HEEDED MY WARNINGS BACK THEN, AND ADDRESSED THE GRIEVANCES OF THE NIBELUNGEN, INSTEAD OF SLAPPING THEM DOWN AS PETULANT CHILDREN, THEN YOU WOULD NOT BE FACING THIS CRISIS TODAY ...

SHE IS ONE OF THE NIBELUNGEN - OF THE SAME KINDRED AS ALBERICH, HER BROTHER ... AND SHE HAS NO LOVE FOR VALHALLA ...

THIS IS THE PRICE YOU HAVE PAID FOR GIVING ALL OF YOUR CHILDREN, BOTH THE ELDER RACE AND THE YOUNGER RACES, THE FREEDOM TO CHOOSE THEIR OWN DESTINIES AMONG THE RINGS OF TIME ... YOU KNEW THAT THEY WOULD SOMEDAY RISE UP AGAINST YOU ...

... YET I AM THE DOOMSAYER OF THE GODS. I CAN ONLY PROPHESY AND OFFER ADVICE. I CANNOT BEND WILLS TO MY OWN.

A JUST PUNISHMENT, MY LORD ...

ALBERICH, HIS SISTER, AND THEIR FOLLOWERS WERE FOOLS. DELUDED FOOLS. HAD THEY BOWED TO YOUR WILL, THEY COULD HAVE STAYED HERE ...

... AND NOW THIS ALBERICH WOULD TWIST MY GIFT TO HIS OWN ENDS, AND DARE TO CHALLENGE THE GODS THEMSELVES!! OH, BUT I AM GLAD THAT I CURSED HIS KIND AND MADE ALL THEIR MALES AS UGLY AND MISSHAPEN AS DWARVES UNTIL THE END OF TIME!

YES, I KNEW THAT WOULD HAPPEN, ERDA. YET THEY COULD NOT HAVE HAD TRUE LIFE OF THEIR OWN WITHOUT FREEDOM OF CHOICE. I GAVE THEM THE RIGHT TO CHOOSE THEIR OWN DESTINY ...

I HAVE NEVER FORGIVEN THEM FOR RISING UP AGAINST ME ... AND I WILL NOT DO SO NOW. THEY WILL FEEL THE WRATH OF WOTAN!!

I WILL USE MY POWER TO FORCE MIIME TO RETURN TO VALHALLA, WHERE SHE WILL SERVE TWO ROLES. SHE WILL SERVE AS HOSTAGE AGAINST ANY ATTACK BY HER BROTHER, AND SHE WILL ONCE AGAIN RESUME THE PLAYING OF THE SECOND COSMIC ORGAN, WHOSE REPLACEMENT IS EVEN NOW BEING BUILT.

AT PRESENT, MIIME TRAVELS WITH A BAND OF MORTALS. THEY ARE HUMANS - PART OF THE LAST OF THE NINE DAUGHTER RACES THAT OUR KIND SEEDED IN THEIR UNIVERSE LONG AGO ...

I CANNOT STOP YOU, WOTAN ... BUT KNOW THIS! YOU WILL ENSURE YOUR OWN DOOM IF YOU RECALL MIIME TO VALHALLA! I HAVE FORESEEN IT! THAT IS WHY I CAME HERE TO WARN YOU!

THESE HUMANS ... THE LAST OF THE NINE DAUGHTER RACES OF THEIR UNIVERSE, MADE BY THE GIANTS OF RISENHEIM AND NURTURED AND TAUGHT KNOWLEDGE BY THE REBEL NIEBELUNGEN ... THEY HAVE THE POWERS OF BOTH AND A WILL TO MATCH EVEN YOURS, MIGHTY WOTAN!!

HAVE I NOT PROPHESIED BEFORE THAT MORTALS WOULD BRING ABOUT THE TWILIGHT OF THE GODS?!

IF YOU BRING MIIME BACK TO VALHALLA, YOU WILL BRING THE HUMANS WITH HER!! MORTALS ... IN VALHALLA!!!

I AM DOOMED WITH THE GIFT TO SEE ALL POSSIBLE FUTURES OF ALL POSSIBLE PLACES AND TIMES ...

I AM ERDA, DOOMSAYER OF THE GODS OF VALHALLA.

... IF YOU RECALL MIIME TO VALHALLA ... IF YOU BRING HER HUMAN FRIENDS TO THE HOME OF THE GODS ... AND YOU CANNOT AVOID IT, NO MATTER HOW YOU SCHEME ... THEN THE TWILIGHT OF THE GODS IS ORDAINED. I HAVE SPOKEN.

... AND I WARN YOU FOR THE LAST TIME, WOTAN ...

... EVEN SO, I MUST RECALL MIIME TO VALHALLA. I HAVE NO CHOICE ....

I THANK YOU, ERDA, FOR YOUR CONCERN, AND DO NOT THINK THAT YOURS WORDS HAVE FALLEN ON DEAF EARS ...

THE RING HAS CREATED DISSONANCE IN TIME ITSELF ...

... AND WERE I NOT TO ACT, THEN ALL CREATION ITSELF -- ALL POSSIBLE UNIVERSES IN THE RINGS OF TIME, WOULD BE DESTROYED. ONLY WE WOULD EXIST ... PARENTS BEREFT OF ALL OUR CHILDREN ... I MUST ACT, ERDA. I MUST ....

LET THE TAPESTRY OF DESTINY WEAVE THIS NEW PATTERN ... AND SEAL THE FATES OF BOTH GODS AND MEN. NEVERTHELESS, AT LEAST HEED MY WARNING ABOUT THESE HUMANS WITH WHOM MIIME TRAVELS. THE HUMAN RACE IS FORMIDABLE IN AND OF ITSELF, BUT THESE MORTALS IN PARTICULAR ARE EXCEPTIONAL! YOU WOULD DO WELL TO TREAT WITH THEM.

I UNDERSTAND.

TREAT WITH MORTALS?! I AM THE LORD OF VALHALLA! THEY MUST TREAT WITH ME!!

I CAN SEE THE TIME DRAWING NEAR WHEN YOU WILL BRING THEM TO VALHALLA ...

AS YOU WILL, LORD WOTAN ...

... AND ITS CAPTAIN IS A MORTAL TO BE RECKONED WITH. BEFORE THE WEAVING OF THIS TAPESTRY OF TIME IS FINISHED, MY LORD, YOU WILL COME TO RUE THE DAY I SPOKE THE NAME OF CAPTAIN HARLOCK ... !!

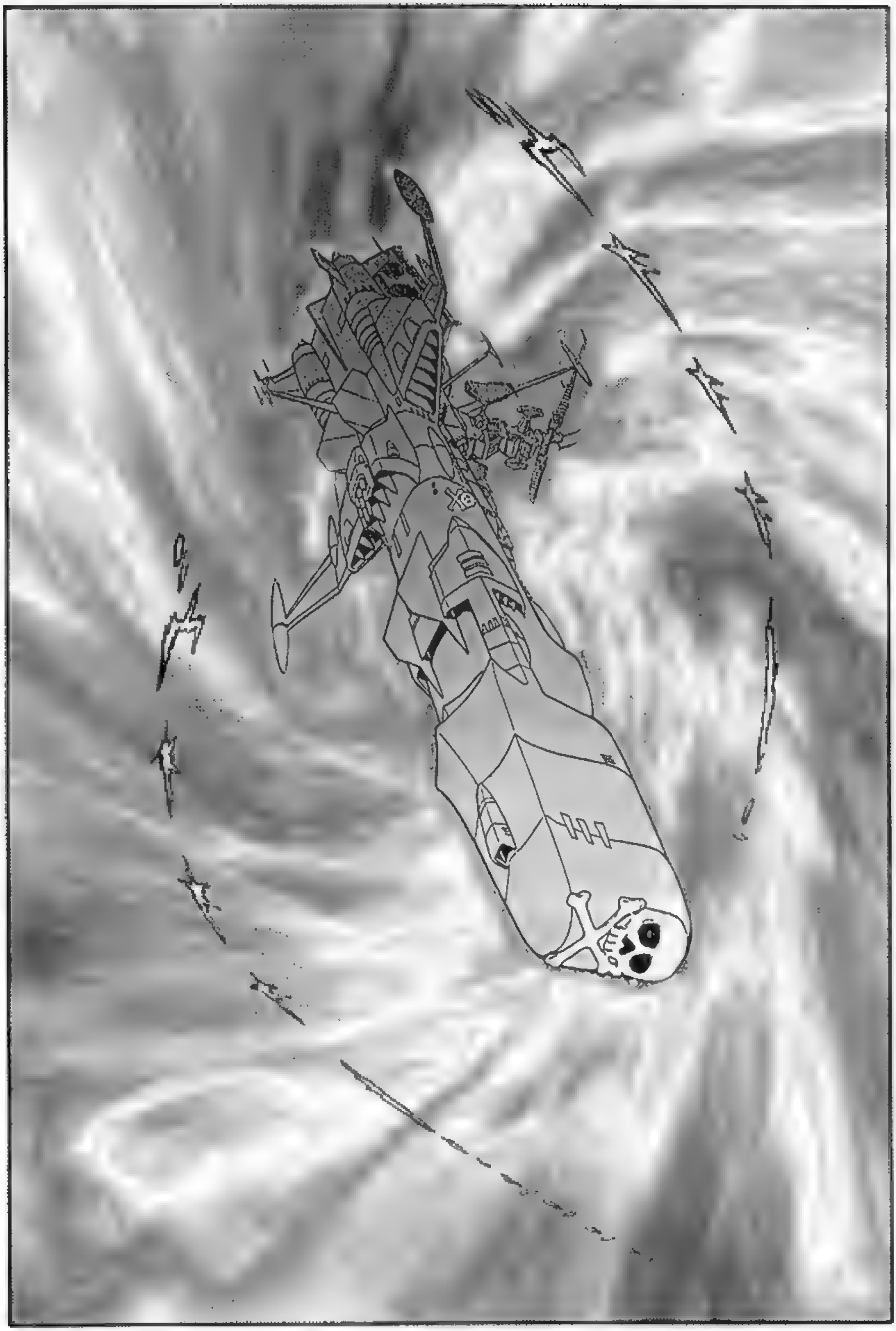
THEIRS IS A SHIP -- THE LIKE OF WHICH HUMANITY HAS NO EQUAL ...

I DON'T KNOW WHERE WE'RE GOING, BUT GRAB ONTO SOMETHING! WE'RE IN FOR ONE BUMPY RIDE!!!

IT'S LIKE NOTHING I'VE EVER SEEN! LIKE A GIANT HAND JUST REACHED THROUGH THE SPACE-TIME CONTINUUM AND GRABBED THE ARCADIA!!

HARLOCK! SOMETHING JUST GRABBED THE SHIP!!

I HATE THAT WOMAN.



NOTE - THIS IS NOT AN ORIGINAL PANEL. I WHIPPED IT UP TO BETTER SHOW WHAT WAS HAPPENING AT THIS POINT IN THE STORY. SORRY ABOUT THE POOR PHOTOSHOPPING. PERHAPS ONE OF YOU CAN DO A BETTER ONE? (REM)

HELL -- NOT ONLY DO I NOT KNOW WHERE OR WHEN WE ARE, BUT HOW, EITHER! EVERY LAW OF PHYSICAL REALITY I KNOW HAS GONE OUT THE WINDOW! SEARCH ME WHY OR HOW EVERYTHING'S STILL WORKING, BECAUSE I DON'T HAVE A CLUE!

AS NEAR AS I CAN FIGURE, WE'RE IN SOME KIND OF ARTIFICIAL UNIVERSE THAT EXISTS SOMEWHERE BETWEEN UNIVERSES. NOT JUST OUR UNIVERSE, AND NOT JUST THE ONES PARALLEL OR CLOSE TO US, BUT **ALL** OF THEM! THE ENGINEERING TO PULL THIS OFF MUST HAVE BEEN NOTHING SHORT OF COLOSSAL!!

... IS THAT WHAT YOU'RE TRYING TO TELL ME, TOCHIRO?

SO WE AREN'T "ANYWHERE" -- AT LEAST AS FAR AS THE NORMAL LAWS OF SPACE AND TIME ARE CONCERNED ...

WELL, I SAY "PLANETS." BOTH OF THEM APPEAR TO BE ARTIFICIAL CONSTRUCTS ...

THERE'S A COUPLE OF PLANETS NEARBY ...

NOW IMAGINE IF AN ANCIENT RACE OF SUPERBEINGS HAD THAT TECHNOLOGY, BUT COULD EMPLOY IT ON A GIGANTIC SCALE. THAT'S WHAT WE'RE DEALING WITH HERE.

REMEMBER THAT OLD MOVIE ABOUT THE "DEATH STAR?"

A UNIVERSE OF ARTIFICIAL PLANETS ... COULD THIS BE VALHALLA?

IT'S HARD TO SEE IN THIS IMAGE, SINCE I'VE HAD TO STEP DOWN THE PICTURE TO FIT IT ALL IN, BUT THIS ONE IS STILL UNDER CONSTRUCTION!

THE SMALLER OF THE TWO WORLDS LOOKS TO BE OLDER, AND HAS BEEN HALF BLOWN AWAY ... BUT THIS ONE ... THIS ONE APPEARS TO BE BRAND NEW ...

--BUT YOU THINK IT'S ARMED, AND THAT THE ARCADIA IS NO MATCH FOR IT.

I'M GETTING ALL SORTS OF UNUSUAL ENERGY READINGS FROM THIS BIG ONE. I CAN'T BE SURE, SINCE THE SENSORS MAY STILL BE SCRAMBLED, BUT--

ONE OTHER THING, HARLOCK, AND YOU'RE NOT GOING TO LIKE THIS ...

I'M AFRAID SO ....

YES ... THIS IS VALHALLA.

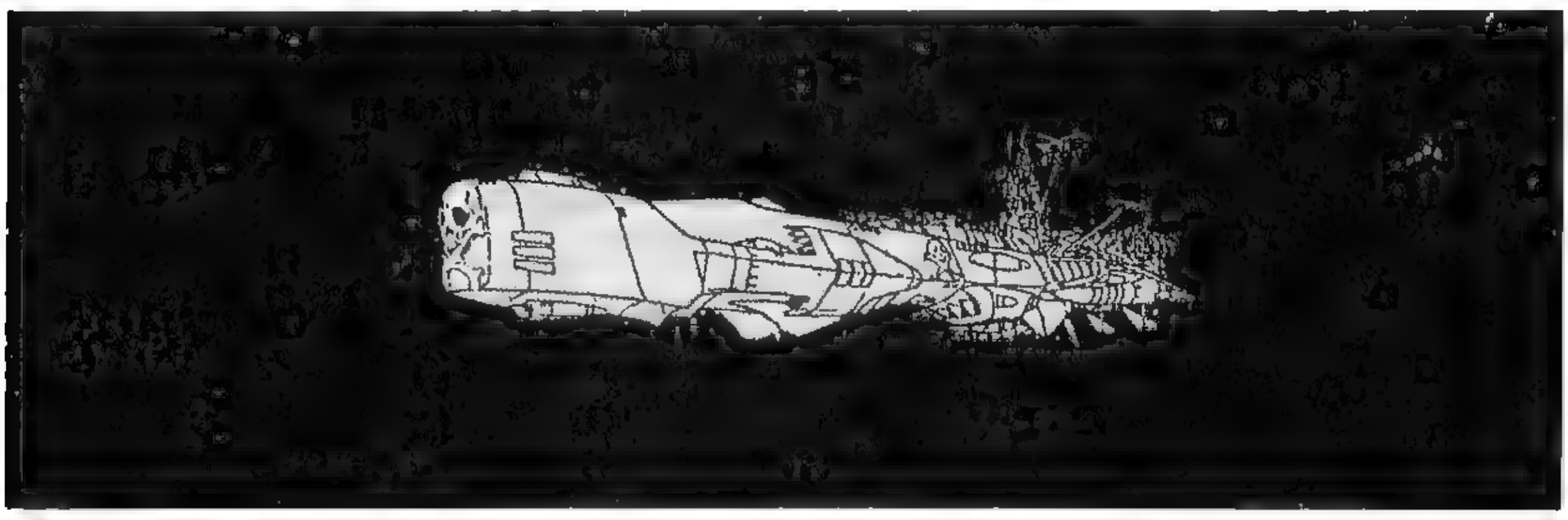
WHY, MIIME? IS THIS PLACE VALHALLA? IS THIS WHERE YOU USED TO LIVE?

I DON'T WANT TO GO THERE.

AND THE GODS LIVE IN THAT BIG THING OUT THERE?

THAT IS NEW TO ME ... THEIR WORLD IS THE HALF-WORLD BESIDE IT ... THE PLACE FROM WHERE MY PEOPLE FLED ... LONG BEFORE HUMANITY AROSE ON EARTH ....

I SEE ....



WHAT A PRIMITIVE PIECE OF JUNK! ONLY BARBARIANS COULD DESIGN AND BUILD SOMETHING SO UGLY! IF ONLY WE HAD THE FREEDOM TO DESTROY IT!

SO THIS IS THE SHIP OF THIS "CAPTAIN HARLOCK," THE HUMAN PROTECTOR OF MIIME ...

YES ... BUT THERE IS SOMETHING ABOUT THIS SHIP ... I CAN SENSE IT ...

IF ONLY YOUR NEW FORTRESS WERE FINISHED, LORD WOTAN! WE WOULD HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR ... NOT EVEN FROM THIS JOKE OF A VESSEL ....

... AND NOW THAT THEY ARE HERE, THEY CAN SENSE US, AND SEE US, AND KNOW US FOR WHO AND WHAT WE ARE ...

THIS "ARCADIA ..." IT IS NOT LIKE OTHER HUMAN SHIPS ...

MAYBE THEY KNOW WHAT THE ROGUE NIBELUNGEN LOOK LIKE IN THEIR UNIVERSE -- BUT THERE'S NO REASON TO BELIEVE THEY CAN NOW PERCEIVE US IN OURS!!

THOSE PRIMITIVE BEASTS! JUST BECAUSE THEY'RE HERE, WOTAN, DON'T START GIVING THEM DIVINE POWERS!!

... PERHAPS THEY CAN ALSO SENSE THE DISSONANCE IN THE COSMIC ORGAN. PERHAPS THEY NOW CAN ALSO PERCIEVE ITS PLAYER, FREYA.

NOW WE SHALL LEARN WHY WORK ON THE FORTRESS HAS FALLEN BEHIND SCHEDULE ....

MY LORD WOTAN ...

MY LORD? THE TWO GIANTS WHO SUPERVISE WORK ON THE FORTRESS, AS YOU REQUESTED.

SHOW THEM IN.

FASOLT ... FAFNIR ... I AM DISPLEASED THAT WORK ON THE FORTRESS HAS FALLEN BEHIND SCHEDULE.

OH?

FORGIVE US, LORD WOTAN, BUT WE FIND THAT WE NO LONGER HAVE THE STRENGTH TO CONTINUE ....

... BUT WE KNOW WHAT WOULD RESTORE OUR STRENGTH, LORD WOTAN, AND YOU WERE WILLING TO GRANT THIS NEW AND STRANGE DESIRE THAT WE HAVE FOR THE LADY FREYA ...

YOU HAVE A JOB TO DO, AND FREYA IS NOT PART OF THAT JOB! THIS ... THIS DISGUSTING PROPOSAL THAT YOU TWO HAVE COOKED UP IS OUT OF THE QUESTION!! DO I MAKE MYSELF CLEAR?!!

"NEW AND STRANGE" INDEED! YES, I'VE SEEN HOW YOU STARE AT HER WHENVER YOU VISIT TO MAKE YOUR REPORTS. I CAN WELL IMAGINE WHAT YOU WANT TO DO WITH HER!!

... HOWEVER, IF WE LACK THE STRENGTH OF WILL TO CONTINUE WORK ON YOUR FORTRESS, THEN IT WILL NOT BE READY IN TIME FOR ALBERICH'S ARRIVAL IN VALHALLA. IT WOULD BE MOST DISPLEASING FOR YOU NOT TO HAVE IT IN SUCH A TIME.

YES ... BUT OF COURSE, LORD WOTAN ...

OF COURSE WE CAN BUT ASK, LORD WOTAN ... BUT WE HOPE THAT YOU SEE THE SENSE OF THIS SITUATION.

BUT IF OUR STRENGTH OF WILL WERE RENEWED ... IF WE WERE GIVEN FREYA TO RENEW THAT STRENGTH ... THEN WORK COULD RECOMMENCE AT ONCE AS SCHEDULED. WHY, WE MIGHT EVEN FINISH AHEAD OF SCHEDULE, GIVEN ENOUGH VIGOR ...

... AND THAT'S ALL?

YOU'LL MAKE SURE SHE'S RETURNED TO US WHEN YOU ARE DONE?

YES, MY LORD.

DIRTY SCHEMERS ...

WE WILL MAKE SURE THAT THE FORTRESS IS READY TO MEET ALBERICH!!

THANK YOU, LORD WOTAN, THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

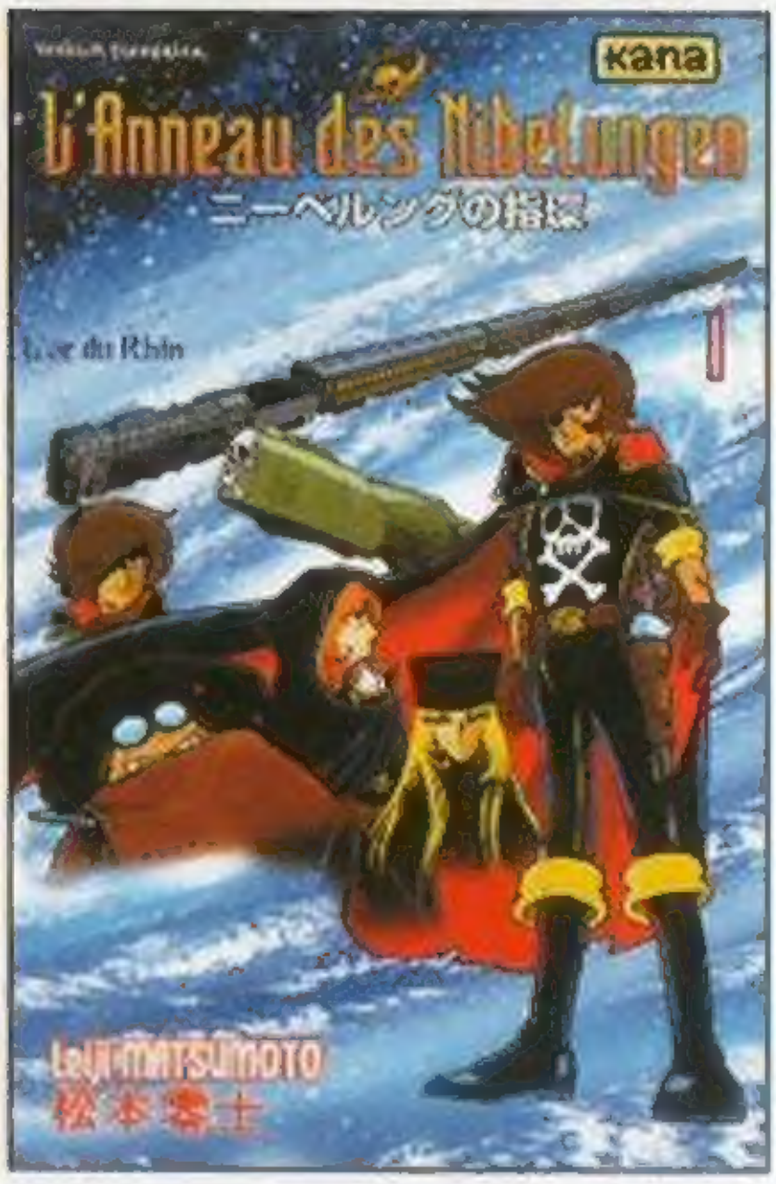
... OH, WELL. SHALL WE WATCH, FRICKA?

THE RAPE OF THE INNOCENT ... A SMALL PRICE TO PAY FOR PROGRESS.



. . . to be continued in The Rhinegold (Volume 2)





Attention !
Ce manga est publié dans son sens de lecture original (de droite à gauche).

Ici, vous êtes donc à la FIN

www.mangakana.com

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Richard Wagner (1813-1883)

Originaire de Leipzig, en Allemagne, il se détache de l'opéra classique et invente les "drames musicaux". Il consacre un quart de siècle à la composition de sa tétralogie "L'anneau des Nibelungen" dans laquelle il réunit différents contes germaniques, et il fit construire le Théâtre de Bayreuth pour la représentation de ses œuvres. Encore aujourd'hui a lieu tous les ans le Festival de Bayreuth.



Leiji Matsumoto (1938)

Akira Matsumoto, de son vrai nom, naît à Kurume, dans le département de Fukuoka. Il dessine des manga dès l'école primaire et c'est en 1954, à l'âge de quinze ans, qu'il remporte le prix de la revue Manga shônen avec "Mitsubachi no bôken" (Les aventures d'une abeille) et effectue ses premiers pas dans le milieu professionnel. Il publie par la suite des histoires dans Shôjo ou le Mainichi shôgakusei shinbun seibuban (édition occidentale du Journal Mainichi des écoliers). À sa sortie du lycée, il se rend au mont-de-piété pour y vendre des disques et un électrophone trouvés dans la rue qui financeront son voyage pour s'installer à Tokyo. Après "Sexaroïd" et "Yojigen sekai" (Le monde quadridimensionnel), il obtient le succès en 1972 avec "Otoko oidon" (Je suis un homme !) et remporte le prix culturel des éditions Kôdansha. Suivent des titres comme "Uchû senkan Yamato" (Yamato, le cuirassé de l'espace), "Uchû kaizoku captain Harlock" (Capitaine Albator, le pirate de l'espace), "Ginga tetsudô 999" (Galaxy Express 999) qui sont tous de formidables hits adaptés en dessins animés pour la télévision et le cinéma, et en particulier, le film de "Galaxy Express 999", numéro un des entrées en salle pour l'année 1979. À côté de ses activités de mangaka, Leiji Matsumoto est président du conseil d'administration du Young Astronauts Club-Japan et directeur du Conseil Central de Liaison des Associations pour la Jeunesse. À l'automne 2001, il est décoré de la Médaille d'Honneur avec Ruban Violet.

